

Hale CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Hale CEVC Primary School is a Church of England School where Christian Values and our Vision lie at the heart of everything we do.

Our vision is founded on Matthew 5: 14-16

'Be the Light'

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Our vision shapes all we do.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish, and our aim is for Collective Worship in our school to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. We see it as a special time when children can feel safe and secure and can share with others to foster feelings of community and explore the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Worship at Hale CE School.

At Hale CE School, worship is at the heart of our daily life and helps us to explore and live our ethos and our vision.

Our Collective Worship is Christian based. There are occasions when other faiths are included, for example, festivals, holy days etc.

Through Collective Worship we aim to promote spiritual, cultural and moral development and a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole. We also strive to encourage feelings of hope and aspiration, dignity and respect.

Through Collective Worship, children will be given a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading of and reflection on the Bible and experiencing music and song.

Opportunities to reflect on things that are happening in the World around us will be given. The children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to establish, explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school. These values are Friendship, Hope, Peace, Thankfulness, Truthfulness and Courage. Time will also be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of the children in our school and to mark seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Children will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Guiding Principles.

Collective Worship at Hale C of E Primary School aims to:

Help our children discover their place in the World.

Provide an opportunity to reflect upon God and give Him praise.

Highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.

Provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.

Help children become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.

Establish, explore and reinforce the Christian Values of the school.

Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.

Provide an opportunity for children to meet people from the local and wider community, particularly the local Church.

Heighten awareness of the ultimate questions and realities of life and provide opportunity to reflect upon these.

Enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community.

Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.

Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to local and global environmental issues.

Foster feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

Share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and give them encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.

Legal Requirements.

The school must provide an act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Head teacher and Collective Worship lead.

The Right of Withdrawal.

We appreciate there may be children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As Collective Worship plays such a central role in our school, it is hoped that parents will be making a specific

choice of this school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within worship.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Organisation.

Collective Worship takes place each day, usually in the morning, and lasts between 15 and 20 minutes.

Monday - Whole School Worship led by the Head teacher

Tuesday - Class Worship led by class teachers with support of the Worship Ambassadors (Picture News Collective Worship)

Wednesday – Class Worship led by a Class Teachers and Worship Ambassadors (Values for Life)

Thursday – Whole School Worship led by Gilly Thompson (clergy member)

Friday – Whole School Celebration with prayer led by the Head teacher/SLT

When worship takes place in the hall, music is played to create an appropriate atmosphere as the children enter and leave. The children are expected to enter the hall quietly and remain silent as they listen to the music to encourage reflection. A candle is always lit and placed at the front of the hall as a focal point for the worship. A cross is displayed and other artefacts relevant to the worship. Hymns are usually sung and prayers are always said. This usually, but not always, includes the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer and other prayers appropriate to the theme of the worship. The person leading worship uses a welcome and dismissal of their choice. The children usually stand to sing hymns and sit for prayers. All teachers attend the Thursday and Friday worships.

Class based worship follows a similar format, with the addition of Worship Ambassadors. These are chosen from each class each half term. They are responsible for preparing and clearing the worship table at the beginning/end of each class worship. At the end of the half term their parents will be invited into class to join in with a class worship.

Prayers are also said in class each day before lunch and at the end of the day.

Planning.

This year the school is linking Collective Worship to a different Christian Value each half term. A half termly plan is provided by the Collective Worship lead, but this only acts as a guide. If a special day, Saints day or important event occurs, the theme will be put aside for that day. Planning is largely based on Roots and Fruits 2 and Values for Life. Picture News is also used once a week.

The themes for each half term are:

Autumn 1 Friendship

Autumn 2 Hope

Spring 1 Peace

Spring 2 Thankfulness

Summer 1 Truthfulness

Summer 2 Courage

We aim to look at ways in which we can understand each value further and explore how to embed it in our lives.

Links with the Church.

Our main link is with Mrs Gilly Thompson from our local church St. Mary's. She leads worship every Thursday for the whole school, with Reception children starting to join in the lead up to Christmas.

Other Faiths.

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of children's beliefs.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

We will regularly evaluate the impact of Collective Worship through a variety of strategies.

Pupil response will be recorded in a whole school book immediately after worship. Each class (starting with Y6) will take it in turn to have the book for a week, recording their responses following each worship they take part in that week. The book will then be passed on to the next class on a Friday.

Appendix.

School Prayer – This

is our school

Let peace dwell here

Let peace begin with me

Let the room be full of contentment

Let love abide here

Love of one another

Love of humankind

Love of life itself

And love of God

Let us remember

That as many hands build a house

So many hearts make a school

Amen.

Head teacher: Emma Fenton

Collective Worship Lead: Tina Herd and Yvonne Buckley

Date: October 2024 Review

Date: