

## **POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **OUR SCHOOL VISION**

At Haresfield Church of England Primary School we want everyone to know that they are unique, special and worthy in the sight of God and to "Aim High". To be the very best that they can be.

We strive to achieve this through our Christian values rooted curriculum. By working together to learn what God wants for each of us, we offer an ambitious, creative curriculum in which we help each child to flourish and grow. . We endeavour to provide the children in our care with a passion for learning and to appreciate the wonder of our world. When they leave our school our aim is to ensure they have the key skills ready to cope with life at whatever level they are. The school is supported by an effective partnership with parents and the community.

This policy was drawn up as a result of consultation between foundation governors, head teacher and staff to describe the provision for collective worship at Haresfield School.

The policy reflects the Anglican foundation of the school as a voluntary controlled Church of England School by providing daily acts of worship based on the faith and practice of the Church of England. The policy also conforms to legal requirements set down in 1988 Education Reform Act and DFE Circular 1/94.

These legal requirements state that:

- all pupils should take part in a daily act of worship
- the act of worship may be a single act for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age or school groups
- the act of worship may take place at any time during the school day
- parents have the right to withdraw from collective worship
- teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship
- acts of worship should normally be held on school premises
- acts of worship are not included in curriculum time

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce the children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

## The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship is concerned with affirming certain given truths about God and Christianity and is therefore distinct from other curricular activities which begin usually with question and investigation. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

The central elements of worship are those of:

**Affirmation** - of some value of ultimate worth for which they thank God

**Celebration** - in songs, hymns, readings, prayers

**Response** - collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer or by silence or reflection

Worship is not simply a transference of church worship to school but takes into account the needs and experiences of our pupils, some of whom may be from churchgoing families, others of whom may not.

Worship reflects the Anglican tradition of the Church of England in the following ways:

- ❖ We use Bible stories for inspiration and learning
- ❖ We observe the cycle of the Anglican year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost as a framework for worship
- ❖ We are building up a collection of prayers and hymns which are regularly used for worship
- ❖ We invite representatives of other churches in to lead worship
- ❖ Using a banner showing Jesus as the light of the world
- ❖ An interactive reflective area supports the theme

## Structure of Worship

Worship is provided for all pupils on a daily basis. A combination of whole school, infant/junior groups and class assemblies is held at different times during the week. Assemblies normally last for 15 – 20 minutes. They are usually held in school, however there are occasions during the school year when the school leads or participates in services held at St. Peter's Church.

### Organisation:

Monday	Whole school – Head teacher / Staff to lead
Tuesday	Key Stage worship – staff or pupils to lead
Wednesday	Whole school – Head Teacher or worship group
Thursday	Praise (singing worship) – staff
Fridays	Celebration worship Head Teacher to lead

The Act of Worship will be based on themes relating to the Christian Church Year and the Diocese Values For Life programme. We use the Bible as a main source, and supplement with additional books and resources often supplied by our Diocesan Resources Centre.

The RE and Worship co-ordinator has responsibility for developing, resourcing and maintaining worship resources in the school, introducing new initiatives and training staff in new approaches. The RE and Worship co-ordinator takes responsibility for planning Worship and a plan is prepared and distributed to all staff at the beginning of each half term. This is based on the "Values for Life"

resource and follows a different value each half term. Alongside that, the Church calendar and cycle of festivals and occasions is adhered to.

The school is building a resource bank of ideas and artefacts and our Worship table reflects the cycle of the Church year with its colours. Each class has a "Worship Box" which contains the appropriate colour, a Bible, cross and candle and any other special things that the class have collected. Key stage 1 use "Open the Box" worships with the children and have adopted the simple liturgy as a basis for class worship times. Each class is planning and developing reflection times and using the "Windows, Mirrors, Doors" approach as developed by Gloucester Diocese.

### **Presentation of Worship**

Worship is led by a variety of people:

Head Teacher

Class Teachers

Pupils

Local Clergy i.e. Vicar of St. Peter's Church

Local diocesan representatives e.g. Children's Officer

Invited visitors – governors / parents / friends of the school / representatives of local organisations and religious groups

We are developing the children's own ability to lead worship times and to lead prayers, including our school prayer. We also have a simple liturgy which we use as we gather for worship and as we close our worship. The worship group will plan, prepare and deliver a worship to the whole school each term.

We are continuing to develop a "Worship Group" where children have the opportunity to reflect, ask questions, pray together for our school and community and be involved in setting up reflective areas for the whole school community to use.

### **Links with Home and the Community**

We send home the "Home School Values" sheet each half term to ensure that families can work together to learn about and embed each value and develop our home school links. We encourage families to take part in the challenge on the vales sheet and bring their work into school to be shared and celebrated with others. These are then displayed as part of our whole school worship display or in class.

We welcome visitors to lead or take part in worship, and have introduced a number of family worship occasions. At these, individual classes or the whole school share their learning and celebrate achievement with the wider school community.

### **Withdrawal from Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from daily worship following discussion with the head teacher. Such children are supervised by a member of staff working on private study in the library. They may be returned at the end of worship in time for any daily notices. Staff are also able to withdraw if they wish.

### **Monitoring and evaluating**

Worship is monitored by the Head and governors. It is evaluated by the Head and the SIAMS inspection.