



POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Open Hearts, Open Minds. Learning together with God.

At St Hilda's Church of England Primary School we aim to provide high quality education for all children within a caring, inclusive and stimulating environment. Our Christian values and ethos are at the centre of everything we do. Through developing our children spiritually, morally, intellectually and physically, we endeavour to motivate and inspire lifelong, resilient learners who are fully equipped to face the challenges of an ever-changing world to reach our full potential within a Christian atmosphere.

OUR SCHOOL VISION AND VALUES

At Carleton St Hilda's Church of England Primary School we believe that every child is a gift from God, and that we have a duty to nurture, care for and develop each individual as a whole and unique human being. Our overarching Christian value, **Love** emphasises the value of every individual and the importance of treating others as we would wish to be treated.

'I give you a new commandment. Love one another, as I have loved you.'
John 13:34

Our school values are **Respect, Hope, Thankfulness, Justice, Friendship and Courage**. These values inform and support our life in school and in the wider community. Collective worship is a time for our school family to grow in love and respect and deepen understanding of our shared values.

School worship at St Hilda's is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school. 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.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). Our collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive, recognising that everyone will have different starting points, personal beliefs and world views. It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration. It will promote dignity and respect. It will develop community and understanding of living well together. Family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

Collective worship provides an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.

Collective worship aims to

- Have a pivotal place in the life of our school. A time when we unpack and explore the school's Christian vision and values, strengthening and supporting our school family and supporting pupils and adults in their personal spiritual growth.
- Be a time when adults and pupils are challenged and engage with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and the telling of the Christian story.
- Enable all participants to develop their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.
- Encourage all to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- To have time to reflect on our responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service within school and the wider world.
- Provide a variety of different multi-sensory opportunities for participation, challenge and enjoyment through prayer, music, quiet reflection, praise and celebration.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers.
- Celebrate the gifts that each individual brings to the school family, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Offer opportunities to all to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.

Legal Requirements

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in St Hilda's Church of England Primary School is distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions. The trustees/governing body school 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 tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

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 occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship. Wherever possible, issues regarding withdrawal should be picked up through the induction process, prior to admission. Where a request for withdrawal is made the school leadership should ensure that they make full engagement with the family to explain how the child's education and experience will be affected as a result.

Parents have been able to withdraw their children from collective worship since the 1944 Education Act and no recent legislation has affected this right. It is most recently confirmed in Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The government guidance document which remains current in the case of collective worship is Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Where parents decide to withdraw their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Organisation

Every half term we explore one of our Christian values and all worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to

ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer. Children are also encouraged to lead all or part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.

There is a wooden cross as a focal point for worship in the hall and a candle is lit at the start of each worship. We have a cover on the worship table in liturgical colours. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection.

All classes have a special worship space with cross as the focal point, with a Bible, books, a candle and other helpful resources and artefacts. The liturgical colours following the church year are displayed in each class.

There are opportunities to use the Forest School area to nurture spiritual growth through prayer, creativity and stillness.

Collective worship includes significant festivals and dates in the Christian year, such as Harvest and Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to events in the wider world or a need from the children in our reflections and prayers.

Children in different key stages lead worship in school and in St Hilda's Church on different occasions, including Harvest, Christmas and Easter when members of the local congregation are invited as well as parents.

Daily worship is led by the headteacher, a member of staff, a small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church or individual visitors.

The headteacher and RE subject leader are responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship, organising resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

During the week worship is usually planned as follows:

Mon – whole school worship

Tues – whole school worship through songs and praise

Wed – whole school worship led by a member of the local clergy

Thurs – class worship

Fri – celebratory whole school worship, recognising achievements of the school family

Monitoring and evaluation of Worship

The headteacher and RE subject leader monitor whole school and class acts of worship throughout the year. Worship leaders in Key Stage 2 are asked for their opinions through discussion groups with the RE subject leader and help to evaluate worship. Parents are given opportunities to respond to worship throughout the year.