



## Collective Act of Worship Policy

Let all that you do be done in love  
I Corinthians 16;14

### Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitude.

Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 10/94.

At Hailey Church of England School, we believe that the Collective Act of Worship plays a central role in promoting the Christian ethos of our community and a key element of our vision statement:

**We aspire to be a thriving school where the whole community can flourish as individuals. We want everyone to be lifelong resilient learners who believe in themselves, achieve their potential and make a positive contribution as global citizens. Our aim is to create a nurturing environment that embraces diversity and enables everyone to demonstrate love, compassion and respect.**

It is also an opportunity to celebrate achievement, support all aspects of school life and provide a moment of stillness and reflection in an otherwise very busy and active day.

We recognise that in our school we have children and staff from other faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

Our collective act of worship takes place either in the school hall as a whole school event, or in the classroom as a whole class event. On occasion it may take place outside.

We welcome all staff, governors, parents and other members of the community to participate in some of our acts of worship, and in our church services for special occasions.

## **Aims**

The aims of Worship at Hailey School are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to explore and understand the school vision
- To celebrate our Christian faith
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- To help our pupils develop a respect for, and sensitivity to, the beliefs and values of others
- To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values
- To enable all pupils to participate and feel a sense of belonging to the whole school community
- To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development
- To promote pupils' personal, social, health education (PSHE)
- To promote Fundamental British Values (FBV) of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- To help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship

## **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. As a Church of England school, the daily collective act of worship is based on Anglican principles. Parents do have a right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship and parents wishing to do this should write to the headteacher. Request for withdrawal will be granted without delay. We are aware that the 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children will not be regularly withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.

## **The Collective Act of Worship Framework**

Collective Worship themes are planned at the beginning of each year and are based upon the vision for the school, the Christian Church year and are linked with special occasions and festivals of a number of faiths. In addition to this, opportunities to explore SMSC, PSHE and FBV are taken through collective worship where relevant.

## **Organisation**

Our weekly timetable for collective worship is as follows:

- Monday - Whole School Collective Worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher exploring our place in the world
- Tuesday - Whole School Music Collective Worship where the school values are explored through song
- Wednesday - Whole School Collective Worship led by a member of the Parish team

- Thursday - Class Collective Worship
- Friday - Celebration Collective Worship where we celebrate the achievements of pupils

### **Format of Collective Worship**

The general format of our Collective Worship is as follows:

- Whole school assemblies are held in the school hall (on occasion they might be held outside)
- Pupils enter the hall to music suitable for the theme of Collective Worship
- The leading adult welcomes everyone who has joined the group and then introduces the theme, invites children to join in the discussion, reads a story or sets up an activity
- At the end of Collective Worship children will be invited to join in with a prayer, or if they would prefer, they are also able to take a moment to reflect on the Collective Worship with their own thoughts.
- The pupils exit to music.

#### Our School Prayer

This is our school  
Let peace dwell here  
Let the rooms be full of compassion and respect  
Let love abide here  
Love of God  
Love of one another  
And love of life itself  
For let us remember  
That as many hands build a house  
So many hearts make a school

### **Elements of Worship**

The following all play a part in our Acts of Collective Worship:

- Songs and music from a variety of cultures
- Prayer (traditional, contemporary and spontaneous)
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Readings/stories/drama
- Special clothing and artefacts
- Discussion
- Use of the senses
- Artistic imagery
- Piano

### **Resources**

In the school hall there is a small collection of resources such as prayer books and Christian artefacts. These and other Christian books and artefacts displayed around the school can be borrowed for use in classrooms. There are collections of hymn/song books stored with the musical instruments. In our central resource cupboards there are RE topic boxes on Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Hinduism, and resources may be taken from these when relevant to a collective act of worship. Each class has its own Bible and prayer books as well as resources from other faith traditions and cultures. We aim to have an area in each classroom that is a focus for our class acts of worship.

### **People**

We value the contributions made by visitors to the school, to lead or participate in our assemblies. Our Parish team visits us to lead regular assemblies and contributes to RE lessons. Members of other churches or faiths are also welcomed. There are also a range of materials and support that other adults can draw upon to lead worship.

### **The Church**

We visit Hailey Church for our annual Harvest Festival, Christmas services and Leavers' services. In addition, our pupils visit the church in connection with RE themes such as Special Places. Our connection with Hailey Church is close and church events, children's activities, etc. are advertised through the school. The two Foundation Governors provide a valuable link between Church and school.

### **Planning, Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

Each year a planning grid is made which gives an overview of assemblies for each term.

Foundation Governors visit school on a regular basis and their visits includes attendance at the collective worship session. These governors report back to the whole governing body.

The school has a monitoring and evaluation book for collective worship

### **Equal Opportunities and SEND**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender, ethnic origin and religion will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. and engagement with Collective Worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.