



Hempsted C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Growing Together in God's Love

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: 3/3/21
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Hempsted C of E Primary School Christian Vision **Growing together in God's Love**

We will aspire to achieve our unique God given potential by 'living life to the full' (John 10:10). We will share an inspiring education underpinned by the strong Christian values of our community.

"I can do all things through God who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13:

Our Mission Statement

We will achieve our vision together by:

- Enabling our children to be happy, creative and successful learners who strive to be their best; truly celebrating everyone's unique abilities.
- Providing a broad, structured and challenging curriculum, reflecting our Christian beliefs, so that each child can flourish; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and academically.
- Being an inclusive school where everyone can feel safe, hopeful and happy.
- Fostering self-esteem, dignity and respect, founded in our deeply Christian values.
- Placing our church school at the heart of our community. Being welcoming and working in partnership to nurture our families, 'Friends', the church and wider community.
- Developing our knowledge and understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith; the faith of others and the cultural values of the world.
- Structuring our collective worship with the children to understand our Christian values and live them in our daily lives.

...the child grew and became strong; Jesus was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Luke 2:40

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of Hempsted Church of England Primary School and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team are responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and Ethos Statement of the school along with our shared understanding of spirituality which we define as: Appreciating and being inspired by the awe and wonder of God's world through reflection and meaningful connections.'

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational.

Our Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity: God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that *all* members of the community (children and all staff) will be present other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Head Teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors of Hempsted Church of England Primary 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 Head Teacher.

Aims

Collective worship at Hempsted Church of England School aims to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the bible as the central Christian text, making connections between the bible readings, Christian values and the way in which they live their lives.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop an understanding of spirituality rooted in the inclusive Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meaning and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- 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 know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.

- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world that contributes actively to transformative action for the common good of all. .
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

Organisation

Collective worship can be shared in person, or virtually if possible.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Worship	Whole School	Key Stage or Class	Whole School	Key Stage or Class	Whole School**
Leader (s)	HT* Visitors*	Teachers	Open the Book or Vicar	Teacher or Pupils	HT

Note to table:

HT* - or, in absence, the Deputy Head Teacher

Visitors* - this includes visitors from other churches

** - this is a Values Celebration Collective Worship

- The organisation of worship is planned collaboratively by the Head Teacher, Worship Club Lead, the Vicar, the parish Children and Families Worker, and the Open the Book team. Central to this planning is ensuring that everyone involved with worship is aware of the focus value.
- We involve pupils as much as we possibly can in the leading of worship: from setting up the hall, helping with dramas, leading prayers, to our Worship Club actually planning and leading collective worship for the school.
- Most worship in the hall is done facing the Big Frieze (an artistic representation of the Bible). This is so that where possible, leaders can locate the story in the frieze, and make easy reference to any items on the Values Windows, Mirrors, Doors display.
- On a Friday, children sit in their house groups and face the Windows, Mirrors, Doors display, so that it can be used interactively.
- Year 6 pupils will set up a worship table displaying a cloth linked to the liturgical colours of the Church year, a cross and three candles that reference the Trinity.

- Teachers choose the music for entry and exit from the hall – they are asked to provide music which encourages children to remain calm and listen. The Year 6 pupils are responsible for playing this.
- Notices for the staff and children should be given out before the candles are lit and the Welcome Prayer is shared. It is important that we celebrate children’s achievements both in and out of school – however, this should be done a Friday afternoon, following our Values Celebration.
- Worship begins with the lighting of three candles by a Year 6 pupil. The worship leader leads the Welcome Prayer.
- A whole range and variety of carefully chosen materials should be used across a term, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs and film clips.
- Worship must include a time for quiet reflection, leaders must not be afraid to use the effectiveness of collective silence.
- Prayers must be said in every collective worship. Where possible, children should be involved in the writing and leading of prayer.
- The music coordinator chooses two songs for each value. The songs may be more traditional hymns and more contemporary music using resources such as Out of the Ark and iSingPop.
- For class worship, each class has its own cross from Bethlehem (provided by people in the Parish) and ‘battery powered’ candles.
- During the week, the children are allowed to put statements or questions relating to collective worship and Christian Values onto the interactive Windows, Mirror, Doors display. On a Friday, leaders will share these with the whole school, discuss them from a Christian viewpoint and encourage the children to express their thoughts in a safe way. Children who have demonstrated ‘living the value’ that week are celebrated and rewarded in front of the school by their teachers.
- We will also visit St Swithun’s Church for services led by the Vicar, supported by the Open the Book and Messy Church teams. Children are involved in writing and leading prayers during these services. These happen at the start of the academic year, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Reception have their own service at the beginning of their school life.
- We also select pupils from across the school who we feel would enjoy and benefit from taking part in the mid week Eucharist at St Swithun’s. We join and contribute to this service once a month.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order that we constantly seek to strengthen and develop our worship practice we have a responsibility:

- for leaders to reflect on the success (or not) of a particular collective worship.
- to ask the children for their opinions. This should not only seek to ask whether they enjoyed it (or not) but to ask them to consider how it helped them to deepen their understanding
- to ask the staff to evaluate the effectiveness of a worship.

Staff and children are provided with an evaluation sheet to help them reflect on and evaluate the act of worship. This is then given to the Head Teacher, shared with the teacher delivering the worship, the Worship Club leader and the ECS committee.

All governors are expected to monitor the Christian distinctiveness of our school. Therefore, governors are welcome and encouraged to join us for collective worship. They should feed back their observations to the leader of worship and to the Governing Body.

Monitoring of collective worship also forms part of our Bishop's Visitor annual visit.