



Downholland Haskayne Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide high-quality education in our traditional school underpinned with solid Christian values 'Let Your Light Shine with Joy at Haskayne.'

Our J.O.Y Team (Jesus, Others, Yourself) consists of representatives from each class from Year 1 to Year 6. Their job is to help to lead and promote Christian values throughout our school.

We promote high aspirations for our wonderful children and community, believing that in working together: children, teachers, parents, governors and the church, we can be successful in achieving the very best outcomes or even a little bit better!

Our Vision and Values

Let Your Light Shine with Joy!

Our vision is deeply rooted in the teachings of Matthew (5:16) 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.'

Jesus said that we (His disciples) are the light of the world. We must not hide that light under a bushel. Our curriculum is continuously evolving and adapting to ensure that every individual has the chance to develop their talents and let them shine. At the heart of our school community is a commitment to prayer and worship, which also helps us build our relationship with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. At Haskayne, we aim to let our lights shine brightly by living and working with our vision through our 'LIGHTS' values:

Love  Inclusion  Guidance  Hope  Trust  Service 

ETHOS STATEMENT

Recognising its historic foundation, Downholland Haskayne CE School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian beliefs and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Introduction

The staff and governors of Downholland Haskayne Church of England Primary School, in partnership with St Thomas's Church, Lydiate and the Diocese of Liverpool, aim to enable children to develop as honest, caring and thoughtful members of both the school and wider communities. We believe that they should understand the difference between right and wrong and know that each person is a unique individual whose well-being is important to all.

Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school community meets together for Collective Worship and there are other times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. sports notices, distribution of certificates. Sometimes assembly will follow immediately after collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship: Explore, Encounter, Experience...

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To explore a sense of the sacred and allow reflection and response to the fundamental
- Questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To offer pupils a chance for reflection and quiet approach to the school values of love,
- Honesty, friendship, forgiveness and kindness
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the
- significance of Jesus and the Bible
- To explore ideas about God and a personal relationship with God
- To enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles
- To introduce the children to the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major
- Seasons, festivals and saints days.
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day providing
- Opportunities to experience quiet and stillness
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a contemporary school
- Christian community
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions
- Such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc.
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and

- Meditation which might include praise, forgiveness and intercession.
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared Christian
- Values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment and
- Our local, national and international community.

Statutory Requirements

Collective Worship at Haskayne complies with our trust Deed and the legal requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that “Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief”. As a church aided school, our worship is wholly of a Christian character.

Parents are made aware that the school is a Church of England school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition. The Christian ethos and foundation of the school are made aware to staff through adverts for jobs and on their appointment. We endeavour to send all staff on specific training provided by the Diocese for all new to teaching in a Church of England School. We promote the development of our school leaders through Diocesan leadership training which we believe is good succession planning.

The Nature and Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is distinct from meeting together to exchange information or deal with organisational issues, although all these aspects may together form assembly. Worship involves us gathering together to learn about and to praise God, and to express feelings of worth and respect for ourselves, others, our local community and our world as gifts from God. The involvement of children, *e.g.* through drama and music is central to our worship and to encourage children’s continued reflection as they move around the school. Reflection and quiet are essential elements of our time together, and enable all participants to develop awareness of the purpose of this special time.

We Aim to provide each child with the ultimate learning experience

- To enable them to achieve the highest standards
- Inspire a love of lifelong learning
- Equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens
- Equip our children to deal with change
- Respect individuality and celebrate diversity
- Motivate and enable all to achieve their personal best
- Create a safe and trusting environment where children are encouraged to express opinion, be independent learners, take responsibility, and improve by learning from their experiences.

Organisation

Provision is as follows:

Timings are usually at the beginning of school or before lunch, with changes made to accommodate activities such as Forest School.

- Monday: Praise assembly led by the headteacher or other staff if she is out of school.
- Tuesday: Collective Worship
- Wednesday: Alternate weeks: Collective worship led by the Rector , Collective Worship led by school staff
- Thursday: Collective Worship led by school staff
- Friday: Collective Worship led by school staff

Praise Assembly to include Children's birthdays, 'Star of the Week' and when other achievements are celebrated. Each child's birthday is celebrated on the nearest Monday after their birthday, when the birthday hat is worn and the birthday song is sung. The birth of new siblings is also celebrated and other family events. New children are welcomed. Our special dragon fly book records the children's achievements and special events including show and tell.

Daily prayers are said at lunchtime and at the end of school with a mix of traditional modern and those written by the children.

The school holds special services including Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Leavers/End of Year for the family, church and community. Individual classes hold Collective Worship to celebrate topics. Eucharistic Services that are open to families and the community led by the Rector are held twice a term. Throughout the year participation in services in church are encouraged including Christingle and Confirmation

Elements of The Act of Worship

Worship begins with children coming into the hall listening to music for reflection. The 'special candle to represent the Trinity' is then lit on the focus table that has a cloth reflecting the colours of the church year and appropriate thematic symbols . The Lord's Prayer is regularly said. Themes for assembly follow a Four year cycle and are planned from a variety of resources including, SEAL, Values For Life (Jumping Fish) Significant events in the Church year and cross curricula topics or current events. Visitors are also invited to give pupils the opportunity to learn about different forms of Christian worship and share experiences. The school explores themes through stories, hymns, prayers, responses, adult led discussion and a variety of art forms. A good variety of styles and approaches are used to sustain the pupils interest by actively involving them by drama/role play, Readings, holding visual aids or leading worship.

Collective Worship may include

- The reading of a short passage from scripture
- Introductory music to create a worshipful atmosphere. This also gives an opportunity to develop pupils' awareness of music from other religious traditions and cultures

- The singing of hymns should have encountered before they leave the school. This is also part of pupils' cultural heritage of hymns and or appropriate songs.
- Using poetry, music and art to provoke a thoughtful response. Using video, television clips or slide presentations. It should be remembered that Christianity is a worldwide faith and this can be reflected in the material selected and used.
- Drama and role play
- Topical issues of a school, local, national or international nature that relate to Christian values
- Newspaper articles that promote a thoughtful response

Children are encouraged to think of the occasion as a special time, with discrete codes of appropriate behaviour. They are encouraged to reflect on how we can apply Christian teaching to our lives in school. The plans and records of collective worship are monitored by our Foundation Governor who regularly attends worship and monitors worship to report to the full governing body.

Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at Haskayne. We aim to make children aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment. In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others' experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

Family Eucharist

The Rector leads these Services.

The children will be involved. They may lead/participate in the following:-

Two Bible readings.

Presenting information/sketch/performance/dance/ musical item to illustrate the main idea of the Service.

Leading the prayers.

Taking the Bread, Wine and Collection to the Rector during the Service.

Singing quietly as the adults take Communion (any children who usually take Communion in their own Church, are welcomed also to take Communion with us, all other children receive a Blessing after Communion has been taken).

The service is on Power Point.

This is a popular service which the children enjoy. Parishioners and parents are also welcomed into the service.

PLANNING

Long Term

A plan has been developed with clear themes to take account of the Church's year as well as the school year. Consideration is given to leadership, visitors, time and venues.

(Evidence in Collective Worship File)

Medium Term

This will include:

- Names of those responsible
- Breakdown of weekly themes
- List of readings, books, stories,
- Hymns, songs, music
- Visitors or other participants

Short Term

Detailed planning from those responsible

Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship. Worship can be evaluated by those leading worship, other staff, pupils for whom the worship is intended and the governing body.

Monitoring

The foundation governors have a key role in this. The following areas should be monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Clear Policy agreed by Governors
- Agreed Policy is implemented
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools
- Worship takes place daily
- School's Trust deed is upheld
- Appointed staff are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school
- Themes are well balanced throughout the year
- Links with the local parish & community
- Finances are available to develop worship
- Resources are available to support worship
- Reporting back to Governors should be done regularly.

Equal Opportunities

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed (or Lack of one), ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Special Educational Needs

The staff and governors at Haskayne are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Withdrawal of Pupils

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an “extended family”. For this reason all children and teachers are expected to attend all assemblies as a matter of course.

Conclusion

At Haskayne we offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and consider the importance of prayer, reflection and silence. We encourage them to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives, to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community. The opportunity is given to put into practice the values of the school. Collective worship offers a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile or positive behaviour, thus building up our common life.

Review by Governing Body: October 2021

Next Review date: October 2024