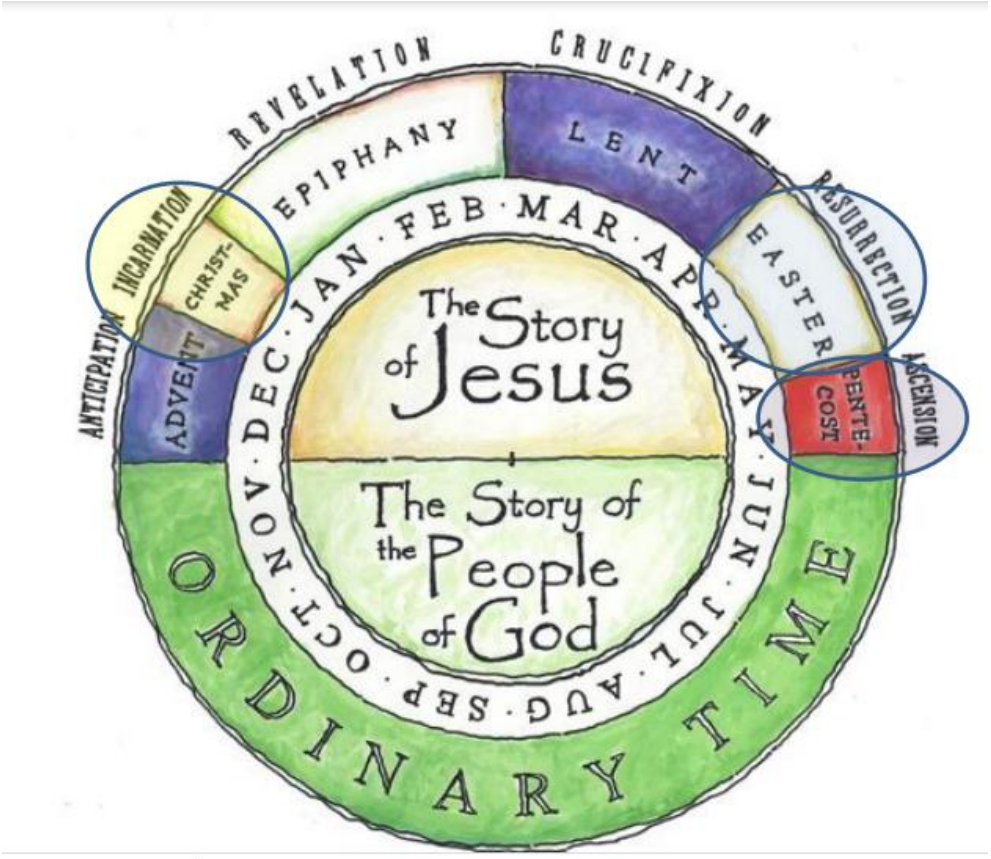
Collective Worship Policy



Adopted March 2023 **Reviewed June 2026**
Due to be renewed July 2027

Church of England Schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. It is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. At Harbury, worship is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality. We seek to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To repeatedly explore the school's vision- To love, learn and grow together- which is based on our school bible verse 'Let us not love with words and speech but with actions and in truth' 1John3:18 and how it underpins our shared values and virtues and make continuous connections between these and Bible stories.
- To support pupils and adults to encounter faith through conversations.
- To help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- To develop understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- To offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- To enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways (using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection)
- To support pupils and adults in learning about the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- To enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship

2 Collective worship

Collective worship reflects the Anglican status of Harbury C of E Primary School and builds upon the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re- imagined, there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means at Harbury.

2.1 Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. Pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. It will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. Inclusion also ensures pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating worship. Worship reflects the faith, belief and ethnic communities that our school serves and validates, embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

2.2 Invitational

At Harbury, parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is

consistently invitational. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea- it is important that the door is open, all are welcome, to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are invited to pray, if they wish to do so and in their own way. An option to reflect is also given.

2.3 Inspiring

Pupils and adults of the Harbury community can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. It enables big questions to be asked about who we are and what we do. We will tell the 'Harbury story'. Worship aims to motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behavior and actions. We aim to inspire pupils, their parents and other adults to become courageous advocates of causes. It will encourage different thinking about their faith, beliefs and/ or philosophical convictions.

3. Organisation of collective worship

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to 'step away' and enter a space for an encounter with faith and God. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose.

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This may be with the whole school community or in phase groups. It also may be held within the classroom in class groups.

3.2 A long term Collective Worship plan is in place. This takes into account the liturgical year, the schools half termly values and specific special days across the school year. The headteacher manages the Collective Worship timetable and the planning of the theme of Collective Worship at Harbury C of E Primary School. Copies of the timetable are provided for all staff so that all staff are aware of the breadth, balance, continuity and coverage of Collective Worship at School.

3.3 Planning is based around a four stage structure of: Welcoming, Learning, Reflecting and Responding.

3.4 The headteacher conducts worship weekly, in addition other staff, local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups also lead worship throughout the year.

3.5 We also welcome the Open the Book team (OtB), who regularly act out bible stories for the pupils to enjoy and bring the words of the bible alive. OtB offer primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team of Christians from local churches, who present the stories during collective worship. OtB team read the bible stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible Paperback by. Bob Hartman

3.6 Pupils also lead worship, based on the value for the term or significant events.

3.7 Our Celebration Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children and gives the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and the wider community. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements and highlights our school vision of "Let us

not love with words and speech but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:18

Celebration Worship plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

3.8 We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship and Celebration Worship at any time.

3.9 We welcome parents' attendance at our Celebration Worship (every Friday)

3.10 Pupils have the opportunity to reflect on worship. Class teachers facilitate the reflection during Class Worship which provides opportunities for children to extend their understanding, reflections, prayer and thought processes.

3.11 There are individual class Reflection Books which allows children across the school to reflect on the Collective Worship and other issues that they would like to pray and reflect upon. This could be linked to the wider world or within their class.

4. Right of withdrawal

4.1 There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship and the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

5. Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head of School before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.