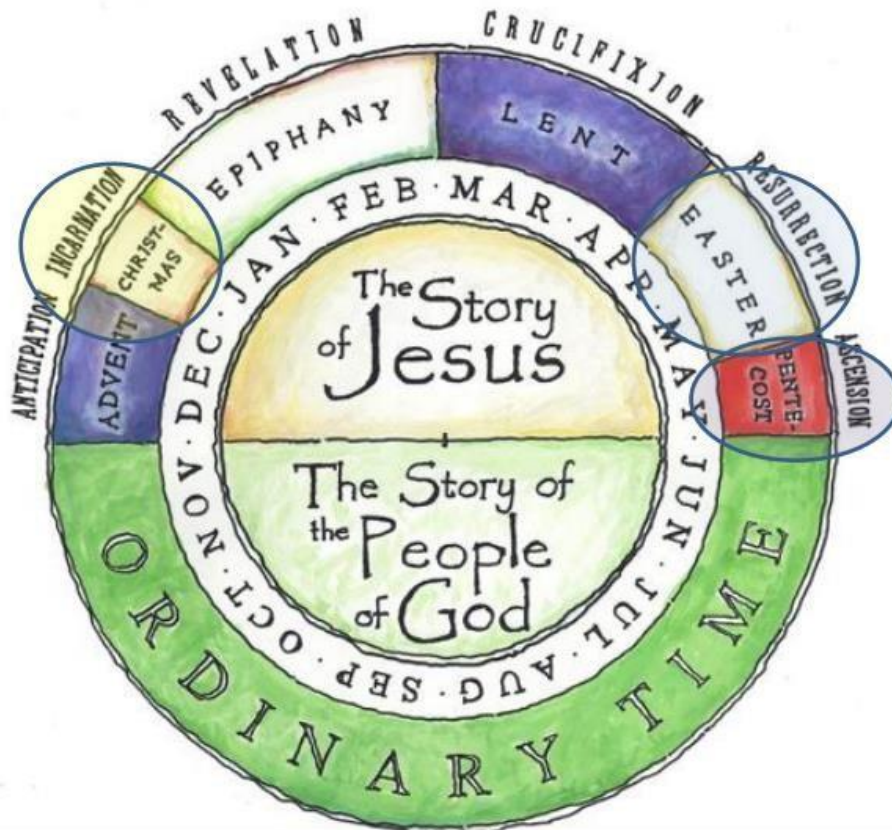




# Collective Worship Policy



## Henley in Arden C of E Primary School

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 Henley, 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 be central to the life of school and is the main platform to explore the school's vision ('Live life to the full' - John 10:10) 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 including the opportunities to perform and respond to performance using music, drama, 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
- To provide a congregational experience for those within and beyond the school family.
- To share each other's joys and challenges within and beyond the life of the school through celebration assemblies.
- To experience worship in a Church setting and develop relationship between the school at the Church.
- To provide invitation to attend church services beyond the school calendar.

### 2 Collective worship

Collective worship reflects the Anglican status of Henley 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 Henley.

#### 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 and celebrates the faiths, beliefs and ethnic communities within diverse Britain and validates, embraces and all protected characteristics.

## **2.2 Invitational**

At Henley, 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. 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 Henley 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. Worship aims to motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour 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 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 school's half termly Values and specific special days across the school year. A Collective Worship Timetable is written and shared with staff at the beginning of each half term. The Headteacher manages the Collective Worship timetable and the planning of the theme of Collective Worship at Henley 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 across the week, in addition other staff, local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups also lead worship throughout the year. Pupils also lead worship, based on the value for the term or significant events.
- 3.5 Our Celebration Assembly 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 both in and out of school and highlights our school vision of 'Living life to the full'. Children are recognised for demonstrating each half term's value and the impact they have had on the school community. Celebration Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

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

3.7 We welcome parents' attendance at our Celebration Assembly (every Friday) and special worship celebration led a whole class.

3.8 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.

3.9 There is a whole school Value based Collective Worship Reflection Book which allows children across the school to reflect on the day's Collective Worship.

3.10 Weekly singing assemblies provide opportunity to sing the faith and provide enjoyment and togetherness through an alternative act of worship.

3.11 Termly collective worships take place at Church in collaboration with members of the clergy including a Christmas Service, Easter Service and End of Year celebration.

#### **4. Right of withdrawal**

4.1 We expect all children to attend Collective Worship but we understand that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through the open door of worship. The Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. 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 Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

