



**COLLECTIVE  
WORSHIP  
POLICY**

**HIGHER  
WALTON  
C. OF E. PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

# Higher Walton CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

*“ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150v6*

### **SCHOOL VISION**

“Life in all its fullness” – John 10v10

### **MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES**

Our mission statement: Raising standards within a caring, supportive and stimulating environment based on an inclusive Christian ethos.

Our values: Friendship, forgiveness, creativity, courage, respect, responsibility, trust and tenacity.

### **VISION FOR WORSHIP**

Collective Worship in our Church School:

- a) should be of the highest quality, strongly reflect the school’s distinctive Christian character and permeate throughout the whole life of the school.
- b) should ‘Be Bold’ and WOW!
- c) is at the heart of daily life in our school and the staff and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ spiritual education.

### **PRINCIPLES**

In our Voluntary Controlled school:

- a) the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors, head teacher or teacher with specific delegated authority.
- b) Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.
- c) The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school. Forms of worship within the Church of England differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deed and as well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

### **AIMS**

Within Collective Worship, we aim to:

**EXPLORE** those questions which are important to everyone, including:

- developing a relationship with God, the teachings of the Bible, prayer, the values of truth, love, goodness, forgiveness, hope etc.
- what worship is and what people do when they worship, what it means to have faith, the faith of others, moral issues and concerns, personal values, commitments and beliefs.
- what it means to put God at the heart of school life.

**ENCOUNTER** a faith which is alive.

We aim to show practical Christianity in action in various contexts, and to model experiences of God in worship, explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, and experience creative silence, the awe and wonder of God and creation.

**EXPERIENCE** the joy of celebrating God’s love!

We aim to create worship that is:

enjoyable, makes the school community aware of Church life and Christian practice, and God’s concern for all people in all areas of life, stillness and reflection. It should be participatory, inclusive and welcoming, celebrate being a part of the school family, and enable us to share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community. It should enable us to express our thanks, praise and hopes to God.

Wherever possible, teachers and classroom assistants should attend and set an example. An allowance is made where pre-planned for teaching staff to engage in PPA, but this should be kept to a minimum.

### **KEY BELIEFS AND ASPECTS OF FAITH**

Pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- Our school core Christian values of friendship, forgiveness, courage, creativity, respect, responsibility, trust and tenacity;
- other central values of selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year

### **ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. Worship may take place at any time in the school day, but normally starts at 3pm in the school hall, and lasts 15 minutes. It is usually a whole school event; however curriculum-based and news-based worship takes place in classes.

Collective worship may be led by staff, including support staff, pupils, the clergy and laity of All Saints', visitors, and governors.

We use the Diocese of Gloucester "Values for Life" and "Roots and Shoots" materials as our primary reference source when planning for worship. Themes will be changed half-termly; hall displays reflect the worship themes and the value in practice, so that pupils as well as staff are aware of the focus and become more involved. The library has a reflective corner which provides opportunity for further quiet reflection and response. Themes chosen are suitable across the key stages, so that collective worship can be a whole school act. News-based worship is based on "Picture News" which provides weekly current news stories at an age-appropriate level. Thursday worship links to the cross-curricular Thursday theme focus for the afternoon, and is often pupil-led.

The content of the collective worship programme includes half-termly themes (subdivided into weekly themes), celebration of curriculum work, and standalone acts of worship marking festivals and events within the church year and within other major religions, where stories are shared and points of commonality are highlighted. Acts of worship are also held to mark national events (such as Remembrance Day) and awareness weeks (eg Deaf awareness – communication for all) and in response to ~~major~~ news events from international to community significance.

The ~~weekly~~ worship pattern includes themed acts of worship led by school staff, Foundation Governors and members of the church, pupil-led class worship, class responsive worship, Thursday theme worship, Picture News worship and celebration of good work. Each class has responsibility for part of our worship eg preparing the room, introductory music, welcome, leading songs, readings and prayers, blessing.

A range of approaches will be used, e.g. adult and pupil led, storytelling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids including ICT/video, quizzes, puppets and role play and special guests.

A sense of worship will be built up through the use of music, silence, appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting (including display) and the use of Christian symbols.

Opportunities for parents, family members and governors to attend will be created, through “~~sharing~~ celebration assemblies” and special acts of worship held in All Saints church. These acts of worship are held at the beginning or end of the school day. We aim to hold acts of Collective Worship in All Saints’ Church at Harvest, Christmas, end of year leavers service and on other occasions.

Methods will be devised to make it clear to the children and adults attending when they are moving to and from Collective Worship and notices and other “assembly” activities. (for example, the lighting and blowing out of a candle, opening welcome and closing blessing)

Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY**

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply. One may follow straight on from the other.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND RE, PHSE and SMSC**

Collective Worship and RE naturally complement and enrich one another but should be managed separately and Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocation for Religious Education. Collective Worship also compliments and enriches the school’s provision for PHSE, and for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education.

Although worship is not designated as curriculum time under current regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of Religious Education, National Curriculum subjects and PHSE and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art. Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

### **LINKS WITH THE PARISH AND WIDER COMMUNITY**

Collective Worship is an opportunity to draw upon our links with local Churches. We have, and seek to deepen, good links with All Saints’ Church, Higher Walton, and draw upon the skills of clergy and appropriate lay members, and other Christian schools work and children’s experts.

### **MANAGEMENT**

The member of staff with responsibility for coordinating collective worship is Mrs Headley. Her role includes

- Planning for worship on a termly and weekly basis
- Coordinating the involvement of staff, pupils and Governors.
- Undertaking appropriate training
- Cascading information to staff, pupils and Governors as appropriate
- Planning for the development of Collective Worship in line with the School Improvement Cycle
- Identifying and ordering appropriate resources for worship
- Monitoring and evaluating the quality and content of worship
- Reviewing the impact of the Collective Worship policy

The Clergy and Foundation Governors and Governors’ Ethos and Pupil Welfare Committee also play a significant role in developing, monitoring and reviewing policy.

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The Coordinator shall be responsible for recording, monitoring and evaluation. Records include the theme for a particular week, the focus of an act of worship, the context and the leadership. Records should be sufficient to inform future planning.

The Coordinator shall monitor acts of worship on a weekly basis, covering the balance of elements within collective worship, the range of hymns and other music, staff and pupil participation, and effectiveness of delivery.

The Coordinator shall report to the Ethos and Pupil Welfare Committee of the Governing Body on a regular basis.

The Collective Worship policy will be reviewed by the Ethos and Pupil Welfare Committee every three years in accordance with the School Improvement Plan.

## **RESOURCES**

Resources for collective worship will be reviewed in accordance with the School Improvement Planning cycle.

## **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure.

The school shall keep a written record of all children withdrawn from collective worship and the date of the withdrawal. This shall be kept together with any written notices of withdrawal from parents. Class teachers must be aware of any children so withdrawn.

Parents withdrawing children will be asked first if non-participation while remaining in the same room would be adequate for their purposes. If not, then children physically withdrawn shall meet in either the library or the group room under supervision by a teacher or classroom assistant. They shall be encouraged to read quietly, if possible, material appropriate to their own faith group and to discuss what they are reading. They shall be taken back into assembly for notices etc.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. **Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.**

*“ You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.” Matthew 5v14-16*

*The Collective Worship policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governors' Ethos and Pupil Welfare Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

*Updated by Mrs Headley –May 2019*