

West Haddon Endowed School C of E School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

‘Where Happiness Promotes Success’

OUR SCHOOL VISION

To ensure every child leaves our school with an outstanding education and the values and character to live life in its fullness, contributing positively to society.

Jesus said: I have come in order that you might have life-and life in all its fullness. John 10:10

Our School Mission Statement:

We are proud of the Christian love and care which we extend to all our children, staff, parents and the local community. Standards of teaching and learning reflect our high expectations of achievement. Christian values are at the core of our school family.

The school recognises that with all areas of the curriculum, collective worship should be a valid educational experience and as set down in the Education Reform Act 1988, the nature of Collective Worship is to be wholly or mainly of distinctively Christian character.

The content of all our acts of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust deed of this Church of England School.

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At West Haddon Endowed Church of England Primary School Collective Worship provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to have time for sharing and togetherness, the sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is a time when we seek to foster a sense of belonging for the school, to the wider community of West Haddon and to the world in which we live. We use Collective Worship as an opportunity to share Christian teachings and reinforce our Christian ethos as a school.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school, which is built upon and in particular followed through within the classroom. It supports the development of personal spirituality through a range of experiences including a focus on prayer and each classroom is equipped with a prayer space.

Aims:

We seek always to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of our school and our care for all who work and learn here.

Our central aims of Collective Worship are;

- To celebrate and learn more about the Christian values of this school.
- To include when possible the entire school community including the sharing of gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To celebrate each unique individual member of our school made in the image of God.
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection, praise and prayer and to respond to fundamental questions of life and faith.
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, and cultural development, to include learning about other faiths and cultures, as well as responding to local and world events.
- To teach about Jesus' life and how his word impacts on our lives.
- To help children develop respect and understanding of the nature, purpose and language of Christian worship.

Practicalities:

All members of the teaching staff are given the opportunity to assist the head teacher in conducting whole school worship including the clergy from the Parish of West Haddon.

Visitors also play an important part in the life of our school and occasionally contribute to acts of worship.

A typical timetable for Collective Worship:

- Monday Whole School
- Tuesday The local clergy
- Wednesday The Key Stage collective worship – is led by the Key Stage leaders.
- Thursday The Key Stage collective worship – is led by the Key Stage leaders.
- Friday Community – parents and members of the community are invited. The theme of the month is concluded and the theme of the next month is introduced. (Last Friday of the month) – and on other Fridays, whole school celebration of children’s achievements.

On Harvest festival, Christmas and Easter, and for Community worship, the whole school visits the church for an act of worship in which parents and members of the local community are invited. These services are led by our Year 6 children.

Content and approach:

We have developed a range of themes and topics upon which Collective Worship is based. Collective Worship is centred on our Christian Values as well as Christian festivals and the Church year. Opportunities are taken to discuss world issues during collective worship as and when they arise.

The ‘Values’ are eight identified Christian values chosen by the children, staff and parents.

Values
Honesty
Dignity
Happiness
Care
Love
Thankfulness
Respect
Friendship

We intend to bring a variety of approaches to worship to cover all learning styles.

Contents include:

1. Celebration of major festivals of Christianity and the journey through the Church year, including the significance of these both locally and throughout the world.
2. Presentation of Bible stories.
3. Topical matters from the news or the locality.
4. Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
5. Visitors attending and contributing.
6. Prayer in different forms – formal, pupil's own, silence and the school prayers.
7. Use of music (this may include cds as an introduction and conclusion, hymn singing and instrumental playing by members of the school) drama and poetry.
8. Appropriate artifacts and focal points. (Candle, Cross, Flowers etc)
9. Participation by the children and staff.

The elements of each act of worship and a suggested shape:

- Gathering together (entering the hall to music)
The school community is gathered together with a song(s) rather than in silence. This is to increase the expectancy of the children.
- News – where appropriate
Shared news – a space for communicating within the school
- The theme
The theme is explored through various media
- Song
A variety of music is used – sung or instrumental
- Reflection
To allow each member of the community to reflect on the theme and its application
- Returning to the classroom quietly.

Resources:

The school budget includes a sum of money to be used for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids (artifacts, posters and books) are purchased when appropriate and are catalogued and stored in the stock room.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should any parents make such requests, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have concerns about provision and practice of our Collective Worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher. School staff has the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring is the collecting of information in a planned, organised and routine way that helps us to evaluate Collective Worship and its impact within the school.

Collective Worship will be monitored by:

- 1 Observing the impact on the children and through conversations within the classroom and through pupil voice.
- 2 Through questionnaires from the parents who attend the community collective worship and through conversations with them over coffee in Church after Community Collective Worship.
- 3 A Worship Plan is kept to ensure that the acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments.
- 4 By discussions at staff and Section 48 Committee meetings such as:
 - Review of content and methodology
 - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience
 - Resources and budget
- 5 Foundation or other Governors should attend worship for monitoring purposes and subsequently meet with the Collective Worship leader on a termly basis.

Evaluation and review:

Using the data collected through our monitoring, we can assess whether we are:

- Meeting the aims set out in this policy,
- Reviewing whether Collective Worship is central to the life of the school, and what impact it is making.

Each person who delivers an act of Collective Worship evaluates the act of worship through the Worship Plan therefore it is the role of the Collective Worship leader to collect all the information through monitoring.

The Collective Worship leader will facilitate a meeting where Collective Worship can be evaluated and reviewed prior to future planning. This will ensure that the necessary changes and improvements can be made and assist in the future planning and delivery of Collective Worship.