



Hampden Gurney Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Our school vision is deeply rooted in the theology and Biblical teachings of Matthew 7:7 which speaks of the importance of prayer as a way of developing an enriched life and personal relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At the heart of our school community is a commitment to prayer and worship. Our curriculum provides children with a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, a high level of challenge and a deep understanding that we are all equal and made in the image of God. Our relationships with each other, our local community and global companions leads us to want to care and serve others.

1 Aims and purpose

In Church of England schools, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

In Hampden Gurney we work with the local vicar to plan and deliver acts of worship that are invitational, reflective and engaging. There is plenty of flexibility in the provision of collective worship to enable all pupils to benefit without compromising their beliefs.

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

1.2 Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- Inspiring and transformational
- be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
- Develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of The school and focus on our school Christian values
- include a range of creative opportunities e.g. Music, silence, symbol, drama
- heavily involves pupils through members of the Worship group opening and closing worship and through pupils writing their own prayer
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- will take place in the school hall, in class rooms or the church
- Respecting the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship

1.3 Content of Daily worship. As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a termly, 1-year cycle to cover our selected Christian Values
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching
- Use the school prayer, Lord's Prayer and other prayers written by pupils.
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.
- Refer to major events in the calendar of other major world faiths.

2 Legal Status of Collective Worship

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

3. Right of Withdrawal

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

In VA schools teachers including the head teacher do not have the right of withdrawal.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

4 Visiting speakers and groups

Pupils can gain a great deal from representatives of various religions, charity and cultural agencies, parents, artists and other professional business people participating in acts of worship. All who lead worship should have the opportunity to read the schools' act of worship policy and be fully briefed by the co-ordinator responsible for the collective worship. Every assembly should be under the control of a member of the teaching staff.

All teachers and visitors who lead acts of worship should appreciate that, while it is not always possible to avoid controversial issues, acts of worship should never be an occasion for promoting a particular set of beliefs. Visitors should also be aware that permission should be gained from the school for distribution of literature, raising money or giving invitations to attend out-of-school activities.

5 Monitoring and review

6.1 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 teacher and RE co-ordinator before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Policy reviewed: March 2019

Amended/adopted March 2019