



Collective Worship Policy

Committee Responsible	Curriculum and standards
Member of School Staff Responsible	Charlotte Hartley
Review Frequency	Every 3 years
This Version Dated	March 2022
Next Review Due	March 2025

AIMS:

- To develop a knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship
- To develop awareness of other beliefs and traditions
- To allow a pause for reflection and stillness
- To assign a time to mark and celebrate special occasions and achievements
- To develop a sense of community, of belonging and sharing
- To develop awareness of the values of our society
- To facilitate the participation of pupils in large and small gatherings
- To offer opportunities to perform and respond to readings, music, dance, drama or prayer

SCHOOL VALUES/EXPECTATIONS:

- To make school an enjoyable and richly rewarding experience through the provision of excellent teaching and learning, and an accessible, inspiring and motivating curriculum
- To provide a secure and caring environment of equal opportunity where each child can grow and develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically
- To offer a wide range of opportunities for the children to develop their personal qualities and enquiring minds
- To enable children to become more confident and independent learners
- To promote spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development within a happy and secure environment
- To promote cultural diversity in an inclusive environment, and to help children understand their social and environmental responsibilities
- To increase and improve pupils' opportunities, responsibilities and experiences so that they are well prepared for the next phase of education and for adult life

KEY SUBJECT SKILLS:

- Develop an awareness and understanding of the spiritual dimension of life
- Develop a moral and caring attitude and code of conduct
- Develop openness and empathy
- Develop a sense of sharing, unity and belonging
- Develop the skill of reflection
- Become familiar with prayer

OBJECTIVES:

Collective Worship at Hiltingbury Junior School is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. Collective Worship can take place at any time in the school day and can be in whatever grouping the school wishes. The majority of acts of Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' reflecting the 'broad traditions of Christian belief'. It is a legal requirement that all pupils attend a daily act of worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw them from this activity. Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and provided with alternative activities. Parents will be given access to this policy so that they may make an informed decision.

When planning Collective Worship, regard should be paid to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background. At Hiltingbury there are pupils from secular backgrounds as well as those from a variety of strong religious traditions. All contributions will be valued. Pupils may take on a variety of roles in Collective Worship such as leadership, contribution and participation.

At Hiltingbury we seek to promote key British Values, which we feel are grounded in characteristics of the Christian faith, such as honesty, kindness and freedom for example.

Themes for the week for Collective Worship will be decided on a half- termly basis and circulated to all members of staff ahead of schedule. Major religious festivals will be highlighted as well as themes that are central to the teaching of many faiths (e.g. love, belonging). The theme for the week will be introduced on the first relevant day of the week, and followed through in subsequent assemblies across the rest of the week.

Through playing an active role in Collective Worship, all members of the school community will have the opportunity to think deeply about issues which affect their spiritual and moral development.

Pupils will:

- Experience a feeling of togetherness and sharing
- Explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy
- Think of the needs of others
- Respond to a variety of stimuli
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Pause for reflection and/or prayer
- Pay attention to those things in life which have the greatest and most powerful meaning
- Celebrate special occasions and religious festivals
- Celebrate the success and achievements of themselves and others
- Celebrate the beliefs, attitudes and values held to be of central concern to our community and our country

Collective Worship Format - this is the standard pattern for collective worship, however special circumstances may cause this pattern to temporarily change during some weeks:

Monday - Whole School Assembly – led by a member of SLT (with the youth team leader from St Boniface church leading a Christian assembly once every term or half term).

Tuesday - Class collective and reflection time with listening boxes or whole School Singing Assembly – led by Music Subject Leader

Wednesday - Class Assembly

Thursday - Class collective and reflection time with listening boxes

Friday - Whole School Celebration Assembly – led by Head teacher

Collective Worship Guidance

- Music will be playing to set the tone as the children arrive and leave. The music choice will be explained to the children, linking in with key aspects of SMSC
- Where possible, images/film are to be on the screen to focus the children as they arrive
- The weekly themes will be circulated at the start of a half term and will respond to what is topical
- Where a prayer is said in assembly, children are invited to respond 'Amen' if they agree