

# Old Hutton VC CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### Rationale

The school aims and vision statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in our school. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian CofE foundation, our shared Christian values and ethos. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as the Trinity. This will include belief in God as the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world. Jesus and His teachings will be a key focus, demonstrating the central position He occupies in our Christian faith. Prayer and reflection will be central to our worship, as part of our encouragement of the spiritual development and wellbeing of our whole school community.

### Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim for all pupils and members of our school community to:

- be provided with an experience of worship that will allow them to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- be introduced to Christian language and symbolism, key Anglican traditions, practices, beliefs, The Bible, festivals and the cycle of the church year and develop their understanding of these
- explore a variety of ways of reflection and praying, including well-known Christian prayers, e.g. The Lord's Prayer, and be encouraged to lead and create our own prayers, contributing to our own spiritual development
- be strengthened and supported as a school community through worship giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school, setting them in their Christian context
- celebrate the gifts that everyone brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- use worship as an opportunity to develop leadership skills and to share learning, ideas, thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- be encouraged to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around us, so developing our personal spirituality
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world, also developing our links with other schools and faith communities, our charity work and our understanding of the major world faiths
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

### Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

## Organisation

- pupils and staff worship together as a whole school or in class groups; there is regular opportunity for shared celebration worship to include the wider school community of parents, families, governors, the village and church congregation; worship is held in the main worship area in Class 4, in all classes during class collective worship, in the church and outdoors in our beautiful grounds and forest school area; there are also opportunities for spiritual reflection and prayer at other times each day
- worship is held during the afternoon of each school day, usually from 13:00 to 13:20 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 14:40 to 15:10 on Wednesdays (usually in church) and Fridays; on special occasions or shared open celebration worship, this time slot may be extended
- worship is led by a rota of staff, Rev Angela (our vicar) the local community (our 'Open The Book' collective worship), and pupils (who lead or take part in worship in their own classrooms every Tuesday, but are actively involved in different ways in all worship sessions); we also aim to include more visiting collective worship leaders from different traditions and other faiths whenever possible
- worship is planned by the Collective Worship Committee (CWC), which is made up of pupils (chosen annually), staff, Rev Angela and our foundation governors; they meet regularly (usually monthly), are actively pupil-led and organise the framework for all worship and key church school events. Individual worship sessions are planned by the staff, clergy or pupil group responsible for leading that session, with reference to the Christian Values of the school and in line with seasonal Christian festivals. Records of collective worship are displayed in the main worship area, on our Collective Worship wall, and archived in the Collective Worship File, along with records of all worship events, including CWC and whole school evaluation.
- worship is resourced through the provision of books, a range of Bibles, artefacts, focus items (often pupil-created), ICT resources and music, stored in the main worship area; the file 'Christian Values for Life' (Gloucester Diocese) and associated materials are central to our shared resources
- pupils and staff are trained and supported as required through specific training led by Rev Angela/CWC (e.g. multi-station worship in the church, led by CWC; collective worship training for all staff, led by Penny Hollander) and/or by relevant diocesan/county training events
- a range of creative teaching and worship approaches are used, with our Christian Values as a core focus each term. Worship takes account of the church year, celebrates the major Christian and local festivals, uses the Bible as a source book of inspiration and learning, includes teaching about key Anglican traditions and practices, and demonstrates the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths by also including reference to these. Learning and spiritual development are encouraged through use of a variety of focus materials, music and reflection/prayer (often pupil-led) and active participation
- the key themes of our worship, outcomes and special worship events are shared as widely as possible e.g. through home-school values documents, displays in church and school, reporting in newsletters, the Parish Magazine (the Grapevine) and local newspaper
- worship is evaluated and monitored by our CWC, by all pupils undertaking an evaluation activity at the end of each key worship theme (the results of which are then kept within the Collective Worship File and shared as a reference book or part of our worship display), by visits from our foundation governors and annually as part of our shared stakeholders' self-evaluation as a church school event in the Summer Term. The findings of our evaluations are shared and acted upon via the CWC to ensure that our worship is continually developing and improving.

***Policy written by AMW & pupils of the CWC, Autumn 2015; reviewed Autumn 2016, 2017 & 2018***

*To be reviewed annually.*