



Charlton Horethorne
CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

2024-26

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Philosophy

Charlton Horethorne School is a Church of England Primary School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to share in worship, reaffirm and practise our Christian Values. Our collective worship is invitational, all children, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in both the school and the church.

Rationale

We consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at our School is planned to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.

Collective Worship:

- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should be given the opportunity to understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness thus developing inner awareness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at our School include opportunities for exploring Fundamental British values and the United Nation Convention of the Rights of the Child. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Charlton Horethorne Primary School that worship should: -

- reflect the Vision Statement and motto of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the Anglican Church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with families, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God-given gifts and talents of the school community.
- respect the integrity of the religious communities from which children come, in line with article 14 of UNCRC.
- enable children to have a voice in and help lead Collective Worship
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Collective Worship aspect leader is responsible for the overall development and organisation and evaluation of Collective Worship. The long and medium term planning process is contributed to by all groups in the community. Clergy and Foundation Governors are also involved in planning to help ensure continuity between the worship in the school

and in the parish. Responsibility for evaluating Collective Worship is led by the Collective Worship Leader. This may be the Head, class teacher or our school vicar.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily at key points in the school day. Its position in the school day reflects its centrality in school life.

In our School, worship is organised in the following way:

Monday	Worship led by Reverend Rona
Tuesday	Value worship led by teaching staff
Wednesday	Worship in class - reflecting on current affairs and our values
Thursday	Worship through song
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly - 'Life in all its Fullness' John 10:10

Who?

- Worship is led by the head and class teachers where needed. At least once a week it is led by a member of the clergy.
- On a Thursday Collective Worship takes the shape of worship through song, led by a member of staff with members of the local community
- Any member of the school community or visitor in school is welcome to Collective Worship.
- The Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which is reflected in the visitors invited to lead Collective Worship.
- Each half term we are joined by 'Open the Book' to explore stories from the Bible through drama. Children are invited to participate alongside members of the local community.

How?

- Monitors will set up the hall/venue for Collective Worship.
- We use candles, Bible texts, pictures, visual foci and music to create an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- Every act of Collective Worship contains music, including singing by the children, opportunities for reflection and silence, participation by the children.
- Children are given the opportunity to reflect and discover their own thoughts and feelings through prayer or reflection after Collective Worship.

- Children are given the opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
- A range of methodologies are used across time, including creative arts, such as drama and discussion.
- The Bible will be used as a source book for learning and understanding, supported by secular stories from a range of cultures.
- Children are encouraged to lead the prayers, read and undertake other parts of the Collective Worship.
- Music should be from a range of genres and cultures, but be suitable to aid reflection, thought and a suitable atmosphere for Collective Worship.

Where?

- It may take place in the hall, church, classroom, or outside.
- When in the hall children will face the altar and make this a focal point of our worship. When Collective Worship takes place in other venues Christian symbols, including candles will be used as a focal point and as an aid to developing understanding and a suitable atmosphere.
- To celebrate Easter and other festivals we sometimes worship in our church and/or invite families and members of the community.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each half term there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the school's Christian Values. Material to support these themes, including Bible references are prepared by the Collective Worship Leader and sourced from Roots and Fruits and on occasion other carefully researched materials. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Reflective Journals and reflective areas are used to support worship and reflection in the classroom.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching.

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the schools values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events or other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these acts of worship would be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Evaluation is an integral part of the process of Collective Worship. Worship is evaluated by those leading it, with However, all children reflect upon and evaluate Collective Worship as part of the work in our whole school floor books.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

Monitoring of planning, provision and impact of Collective Worship is carried out on a regular basis by the Collective Worship Leader, through observation and monitoring of planning. This role is also carried out by Foundation Governors to ensure that legal requirements are met and that worship is of the highest standard.

The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through whole class reflections.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Charlton Horethorne Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from 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.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept in school and there is an annual budget determined by the demands of the School Development Plan, for Collective Worship, to develop these resources.