



## **Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School**

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Ratified by Governing Body on: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

**Next review date: October 2019**

*As part of the caring Christian environment we aim to develop the spirituality of those of Christian faith, those of other faiths and those of no faith. We achieve this through daily worship and by celebrating diversity – treating all individuals with dignity and respect, working in unison with St James' Church in Hartlebury and other faith members of the wider community.*

#### **Introduction**

As a Church of England Primary School we want our children and school community to have the opportunity to learn to worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. We believe that, at its heart, Collective Worship should provide opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to reflect and pray, to sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God.

#### **The Legal Requirements**

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which require that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.
- For Collective Worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times. Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for Collective Worship.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools can hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Voluntary Controlled school rests with the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for 'the purpose of securing, as far as practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with provisions of any trust deed relating thereto.' The

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Head teacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

### **Anglican Faith and Practice**

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

- All acts of worship are rooted in the examples of Jesus Christ and we make use of the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning, to make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals and use the liturgical colours during acts of worship.
- We aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music. We introduce the Trinity through the use of the Bible (the word of God the Father), the Cross (Jesus as God's Son) and candles (the Holy Spirit) as well as using introductory sentences to create a welcoming atmosphere to worship.
- We foster links with St. James' Church, an Open the Book group and the PCC, involving Reverend Arnold and the Worship Group in leading collective worship, supporting the worship team in planning acts of worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school.
- We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and accepted in worship without any pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe. We strongly believe in developing the spirituality of all our pupils, whether they are from a Christian background, another faith background or of no faith background. Our worship should enable this to happen.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

As established by the 1944 Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

The Foundation Governors at Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School have a particular responsibility to ensure that the character and Christian distinctiveness of the school are reflected in Collective Worship, but the actual arrangements for Collective Worship are made by the Collective Worship coordinator- Mrs Claire Grand.

### **Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

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- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God through prayer and reflection
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

### **Planning**

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Worship Coordinator, Claire Grand. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year and are underpinned by our three core Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness. These plans are supported by Roots and Shoots, Values for Life and other materials, including contributions from Open the Book. The Headteacher ensures that foundation governors receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

### **Organisation**

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way, expecting children to behave appropriately. However, we do try to foster engagement of the pupils within Worship. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

Parents are invited to share our Remembrance, Harvest, Christmas and Easter worship, as well as our Year Six 'leaver's service' at the end of the academic year. Governors also attend acts of worship at any time.

### **Contribution to Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development is focussed on and fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example; children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life; consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness; appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs; value their own culture and the cultures of others. As a school we understand the need for our children to reflect, have space and time to sit quietly and think. We encourage children to reflect on their actions and words during acts of worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We monitor and evaluate Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. Foundation Governors are involved in the monitoring and evaluation process.

### **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible and valuable for all. Where applicable children that find the whole school act of

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worship overwhelming, provision will be made for them have a smaller group act of worship following the same theme and values as the rest of school. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

### **Implementation of Policy**

The Headteacher is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed at least every two years or more frequently should changes occur within the life of the school. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

**Reviewed – September 2018**

**To be Renewed Annually**

**Next Review Date – September 2019**

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