

“Let all that you do be done in love” I Corinthians 16:14

Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School Policy for Collective Worship

1. Aims

At Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School we aim to promote the aims and ethos of our school through daily acts of Collective worship. Collective worship is important to the life of the school and to its religious character. It fosters a sense of community within our school and creates an awareness of belonging to a wider community, both locally and globally. This policy is written to reflect the chosen aims and Christian values of our school for this year:

- Hope
- Service
- Humility
- Justice
- Generosity
- Perseverance

We aim to offer quality time for the reflection and affirmation of Christian values and principles, and for the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural and religious development. We aim to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and encourage respect and tolerance for all regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, ability or disability. Whilst our Collective Worship is broadly Christian, we ensure that it reflects the multicultural and equality policies we have in school, the uniqueness of us all and the diversity within Society.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit.

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human.

2. Worship of a Broadly Christian Nature

All pupils whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. For example, it may be appropriate to tell stories of the life and teachings of Jesus, but inappropriate for all pupils to be required to address Jesus directly in prayer. Children should be offered the opportunity to join in, but their feelings acknowledged should they not wish to do so. In order to achieve an act of worship which meets legal requirements as well as educational principles, we concentrate on those characteristics which are shared by faiths as well as those which are specific to Christianity.

These include:

- that there is one God, a supreme spirituality, the source of all life who created the world and all that lies in and beyond it;
- that the nature of God may be found through love and selfless caring for others;
- that all relationships between human beings should be guided by love;
- that the spirit of love be used by those with power to value and care for the world and all that is in it.

In this way school acts of collective worship can become a purposeful collective spiritual experience which supports the ethos of the school.

3. The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I school, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level. Regular talk sessions within Collective Worship enable children to reflect their views. School chooses each year the most pertinent Christian Values to develop over the year. This is done in conjunction with Stakeholders.

4. Legal requirements

The school must hold a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils of school age, but recognises the right of parents to request that their child is withdrawn. Any such requests need to be put in writing to the Head teacher and if such requests are made, we would ensure adequate supervision, with appropriate work provided. The right of staff to request withdrawal is also respected.

Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher and is carried out in accordance with the school's founding Trust Deed and its controlled status. This policy pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE, legal requirements set out in the Education Reform Act 1988, together with interpretation offered in DCSF Circular 1/94 and subsequent acts.

5. Management of Worship

We aim to create a pleasant environment for worship through the use of music, artefacts as a focal point and children seated where they chose. The older children take responsibility for the preparation of the hall organising the music, etc. after liaising with the member of staff delivering collective worship. Each class also plans, organises and conducts an assembly for the whole school on a rota basis. This is usually based on something of a topical nature to the class or the community and parents and governors are invited to share with us on these occasions.

Responsibility for delivering Collective Worship includes staff, visitor and pupil led worship. An overview of the themes by week is created each year, an example of which can be found in Appendix 1. Each Monday act of worship generally introduces a new theme (although some themes can last more than one week) and focuses on one specific Christian Value. Christian Values are an important aspect of our Collective Worship, evidenced by our displays around school and our emphasis within worship. We encourage all staff to constantly refer to and revisit these values within both worship and their day to day teaching to enable our children to have a deeper understanding of them.

Collective worship is reflected upon daily by the member of staff delivering worship and also the senior children in school acting as monitors and evaluated regularly by the senior leadership team, the RE Co-ordinator, Foundation Governors and pupil representatives. Action points are included in the Collective Worship file and a copy of the evaluation can be found in Appendix 2. This evaluation should also be used for observation of specific acts of Collective Worship, which could be carried out by the Headteacher, RE Co-ordinator and members of the Governing Body.

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On Fridays we have a Celebrations Worship to reflect upon and celebrate the good things that have happened during the week (good work, good behaviour, good manners, kindness, helpfulness and to present certificates and awards).

In addition to the rota we also have Collective Worship led by members of our Church, St Paul's and other visitors both from other Christian denominations and elsewhere. We always welcome visitors to share in our acts of worship.

Worship is generally held in the hall and we use a range of strategies to create a calm and thoughtful atmosphere to establish a special time. The children usually engage in singing, praying, listening to a story, discussing an issue, drama, poetry etc. dependent upon the theme of the worship. Some resources are kept in the cupboard in the hall, a list of appropriate websites which can support worship can be found in Appendix 3.

6. The School as a Church School

We have clear aims and a vision statement which reflects the religious character of the school, and we hope that these are evident in the everyday activities of the school, with positive relationships at all levels to promote a caring atmosphere and a valuing of all people. We have strong links with our local church, St. Paul's and the vicar, who regularly visits school. Staff, pupils, parents and Governors also visit Church for the acts of Corporate Worship in terms of celebration of festivals (Easter, Harvest and Christmas). We are very proud of the Christian artefacts displayed around school, which include a range of Bibles, a Cross which was compiled with self portraits of all the children in the school and a prayer tree for children to add their prayers for sharing in worship. We also have indoor and outdoor reflection areas.

A Christian ethos permeates our school behaviour policy, which is designed to promote positive behaviour and which involved all staff, Governors, parents and pupils in its formulation. It is aimed at fostering self-esteem and encouraging forgiveness and a 'new start'. Each class has 'circle time' where they can discuss any aspect of school life as well as regular family conferences where we collectively share our thoughts and suggestions. Our Ambassadors (representatives of each team within school) work to promote Christian values and contribute greatly to our school ethos. They support all children and adhere to a positive code of conduct.

Policy responsibilities:

RE Co-ordinator	Mrs S Brooke-Mawson
Headteacher	Mrs J Potter
Foundation Governors	Mrs K Cutts

Date: November 2023

To be reviewed: November 2024