

"Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14

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

1 Introduction

Hanging Heaton School is committed to recognising the uniqueness of an individual and to acknowledge and develop the positive qualities that all have regardless of race, religion, gender or special educational need to achieve their full potential. We are a school committed to the inclusion of all in everything we do and strive to ensure equal opportunities for all to achieve their best.

Our school vision statement shared with stakeholders reflects this belief and what we aim to achieve:

'Let all that you do be done in love' - (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Our vision underpins all that we do in school. This vision, supported by our Christian values which are an essential part of our school lives, allows us to serve our community by providing a high-quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Love for learning

We are all on a fun learning journey in order to achieve our full potential
We celebrate and share our successes and achievements

Love for ourselves

We promote a positive, healthy lifestyle and aim to make ourselves the best we can be
We all have our own thoughts, gifts, talents, skills and abilities

Love for one another

We look after one another and show care for everybody
We respect the beliefs and cultures of all communities

Love for our world

We work together to create a warm, safe and stimulating environment
We act to take care of our wonderful world

We aim to develop our children socially, morally, culturally, spiritually and academically to help them to be more valued and responsible citizens. This policy is written to reflect our vision of love and the chosen aims and Christian values of our school for the year.

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The Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, it is always good practice to arrange to discuss this with parents if a request emerges. There may be issues about a particular aspect of the programme which may be allayed after discussion. If the parent still feels they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. This must be allowed by the school, which also needs to provide alternative activity and supervision for this pupil, although this must be at no additional cost to the school or local authority.

The value of collective worship

The school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of our school and to the society and world in which we live. We aim for our programme of collective worship to enrich the life of school in many ways and try to be creative and imaginative in organising this provision. We believe that collective worship:

- Offers space for the school community to learn, grow and celebrate together;

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- Provides an opportunity for personal reflection on individual life or wider issues;
- Nurtures all aspects of SMSC development, especially spiritual development;
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of fundamental values;
- Enables us to meet and engage with the local community through visitors;
- Responds to topical or local issues in a flexible and sensitive way;
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to develop their own abilities in preparing, presenting or evaluating assemblies.

We see collective worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life - the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Organisation of Collective 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

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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.

On Fridays we have a Celebration 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).

Principles and practice at our school

These are our key principles in planning collective worship:

- All children will take part in Collective Worship every day.
- All members of staff will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to take a lead and to participate.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals. They will also relate to the children's interests - classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will be opportunity to recognise the distinctiveness of the many faiths and world views shared in our community.
- The collective worship will include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.

Reflection and prayer

Collective worship should include opportunity for reflection. This may include the use of prayers. Sensitivity should be used to ensure that prayer or other forms of spirituality are as inclusive as possible. Assumptions or assertions about specific doctrinal beliefs may make it difficult for members of some faith communities, or pupils without religious affiliation, to

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participate. It may be introduced with a phrase that recognises pupils will use the words in different ways. Some may reflect the words of the prayer in their own thoughts. Others, with no specific religious faith, will be able to reflect on the theme and the aspiration of the words without necessarily implying belief in a deity or conformity to a particular religious tradition.

Visitors

Visitors can enrich collective worship and build partnership with the local community. We invite members of faith communities, other ethical traditions and community groups to share regularly in the programme. We ensure full safeguarding procedures are in place. Regular visitors to school who have access to children should have DBS enhanced disclosure. We will ensure that extremist or intolerant views, of any political or religious kind, will not be allowed in assemblies or elsewhere and we will follow appropriate safeguarding policies as appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to access to Collective worship. All children will have access to appropriate resources within the school. These will reflect a multi-cultural society, without stereotyping or discrimination. We are mindful of the need to promote the inclusion of all protected characteristics and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy and guidance will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by all stakeholders of the school including pupils, parents, staff and governors.

Policy responsibilities:

RE Co-ordinator Mrs S Brooke-Mawson

Headteacher Mrs J Potter

Foundation Governors Mrs K Cutts

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