



Hutchinson Memorial C.E. (A.) First School

Collective Worship Policy Reviewed January 2016

As a school we have decided to support the Dyslexia Friendly Initiative and have adopted the Staffordshire definition of dyslexia. By supporting this initiative we use dyslexia friendly strategies when delivering the whole curriculum as well as creating a dyslexia friendly environment for the children (refer to SpLD policy for strategies). We also recognise that more children are successful when taught using dyslexia friendly teaching methods, and while dyslexia friendly techniques can be applied to children who are not dyslexic, this does not work the other way round.

Mission Statement

Learning together for life, with Jesus'

At Hutchinson Memorial CE First School, we aim to:

- Work together to promote the Christian ethos of our school
- Create a happy, friendly, inclusive and caring learning environment
- Provide all our pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to develop their full potential
- Pursue the highest standards of achievements in all areas of the school's curriculum
- Praise and acknowledge effort and success
- Support our high quality staff and governors with appropriately targeted training opportunities
- To further develop a partnership between pupils, parents, governors, teachers and the wider community

- Improve the physical resources and environment of our school

Our Values:

Being a Church of England First School means we embrace the following Christian values:

- Friendship & Respect
- Kindness & Forgiveness
- Trust & Honesty
- Determination & Courage
- Hope & Happiness
- Creativity & Curiosity

Collective Worship

- Collective worship is central to the life of Hutchinson Memorial CE School.
- It offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character.
- It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.
- Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants.
- Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all member of the school community.
- It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.
- The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective Worship is central to the ethos and values of the school. Distinctive Christian theology is celebrated through school worship within which the

Anglican Foundation is honoured, including the use of Eucharist/Communion where appropriate.

Collective worship at Hutchinson Memorial CE First School aims to offer an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character.

This will be achieved by...

- offering a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community that are grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
- seeking to make a difference to the lives of all members of the school community by engaging, challenging, encouraging and inspiring in a relevant way
- fostering a thought-provoking atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response
- learning about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- exploring and developing understanding of the Trinitarian nature of Christianity, providing a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- creating an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected
- fostering a reverential attitude to God and contribute to learners' understanding of Christian theological concepts and beliefs at an appropriate level
- enabling learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position He occupies in the Christian faith.
- setting the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context
- giving a significant place to the Bible relating this to the school's core values and learners' own lives.
- allowing learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- allowing participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- ensuring that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils

- fostering a search for meaning and values in life and of a faith to live by
- fostering empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways whether prepared beforehand or spontaneous
- enabling pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- identifying clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship particularly local Anglican practice
- providing opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- understanding the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey.
- developing understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer and the part prayer may play within an individual's life and spiritual development and in the life of the worshipping community
- choosing themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct
- enabling pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers
- offering regular encounters with a range of leaders from different Christian traditions
- making regular use of local church buildings for worship
- avoiding a confessional approach; use owning language such as 'Christians believe that....' then invite all to engage & actively participate
- Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:
 - recognising and celebrating the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
 - reinforcing school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines
 - sharing school and community information

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The headteacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school.

A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning.

Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.

The themes and values to be explored through worship times each term/year will be decided in advanced and shared with pupils and their parents.

Records of plans and content are kept centrally in the Headteacher's Office. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that these are kept updated.

Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors, and takes place regularly. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement.

Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings.

The Headteacher keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

The Headteacher is aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

There will be a clear link between Collective Worship and the School Development Plan, with reference to:

- themes and approaches
- targeted budget
- development of resources
- staff training and support
- pupil participation and response

RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

CURRENT PRACTICE

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

Grouping : Whole School

Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3.00pm - 3.25pm Friday 9.10 - 9.40am.

Place Monday - Thursday School Hall, alternate Fridays in Church

Responsible: All Staff on a rota basis

Every alternate Friday, the school worships in Church and Parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions.

No worship programme can be entirely pre-planned. There should always be space for the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience. Never worry if plans are neglected - just ensure your records show why!

APPENDICES include:

1) Resource List

2) Worship Programme - list of themes/content planned for the term/year

Agreed by Governing Body:

Policy to be reviewed January 2018