



**HYTHE BAY**  
Church of England  
Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Signed	Designation	Date
	Headteacher	
	Chair of Governors	

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God".

William Temple (1881-1894)

### **Our Vision:**

**"Anchored by God, we strive to teach children to be confident, connected and creative through outstanding teaching and care."**

**We show love and compassion, not just by talking about them but by living them too.  
John 1:18**

**We are an inclusive school which strives to give everyone life in all its fullness through learning and our Christian values. We aim to create a community where every individual flourishes and is respected. Within our culture of continuous learning and reflection we deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum to all children in our care.**

**Love – Compassion – Tolerance - Forgiveness**

### **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

### **Aims**

Collective worship at Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School will support the school's Christian Ethos, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together.

## **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from the traditional to the more modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Simple responses.

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.  
The Lord is here / *His Spirit is with us*  
Peace be with you/ *and also with you*  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / *In the name of Christ, Amen*
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

## **Implementation**

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship will be held every school day and generally the whole school will attend in the hall. On some occasions class worship will take place in individual classrooms. YR will initially worship daily in their classroom but will gradually move towards attending whole school worship by the end of the year. Worship will usually be led by a member of the SLT, although local church members, including the incumbent will lead one session weekly. Class led worship will take place on Friday mornings and parents and carers will be invited to attend also.

Worship at Hythe Bay will broadly follow the programme based on the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education Collective Worship Programme, it will be broadly planned by the Head Teacher. The Teacher leading the worship along with members of the Worship Club will plan the detail of each session.

Worship will always be based around a biblical passage and include a variety of activities including prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, puppets etc. Worship plans are kept in the Headteacher's office. Resources will be allocated as needed to Worship within the school and staff will have the opportunity to access CPD as necessary.

The Worship Club meets periodically, led by the RE subject leader to help plan and be involved in Collective Worship, this group is open to any child who wishes to attend

Individual teachers may follow up Worship with their classes as appropriate.

During the current Covid-19 pandemic DFE guidelines meant the school could not meet as a whole body to take part in the daily act of worship. Daily Acts of worship continued at Hythe bay but in classroom bubbles. One bubble took part in the actual act of worship in the hall which was then recorded for other classes to take part in virtually later in the day. This regime will continue if the school is directed to activate the management contingency plan.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher, Governors and the School Council regularly.

If students are withdrawn from collective worship, they will remain in their classroom with a member of staff.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit annually  
Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act.

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Reviewed – December 2021

Approved by Learning and Achievement Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## **Appendix**

### **Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship**

When briefing visitors for school worship, we will endeavour to tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers and remember to:
- give them plenty of notice – we will not assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe....") is to be avoided

Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally.... We will NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!