



Putting the 'Wow' into Worship!

## Heskin Pemberton's CE Primary School policy for Collective Worship

### I. Fundamentals

#### (a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish, diocesan and district level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. The school's Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State. or, if in union with the National Society, The daily act of collective worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our **Ethos Statement** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer in the curriculum generally and at the end of (morning and afternoon) sessions as well as graces before lunch.

#### (d) The Church of England/Methodist Heritage



Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church. Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;  
Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;  
The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;  
The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;  
The importance of prayer;  
The central symbols of Christianity;  
The cycle of the Church year.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

The relationship to the Diocesan policy on worship in Church schools.  
*The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan/District policy*

The relationship to Denominational Religious Education.

The relationship between RE and worship is that they complement each other. They are delivered separately with a focus on recommendations from the Blackburn Diocese.

## **2. Responsibility for the policy**

The responsibility of the policy is with the Head teacher, RE coordinator and ethos committee of governors.

## **3. Statement of broad aims**

Explore those questions that are important to everyone. Encounter a faith which is alive and experience the joy of celebrating God's love.

## **4. Organisation and Delivery**



Daily whole school Worship includes one celebration assembly to celebrate the children's success. Worship is led by a range of people including staff, pupils, incumbent/minister, other clergy, visitors, governors.

*"Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.*

*Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two."*

Parents are invited to certain acts of Worship throughout the year. They are also invited to the weekly celebration assembly.

*A sense of worship will be built up through the use of lighting, music, silence, appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting (including display) and the use of Christian symbols.*

The ways in which worship will be distinguished from notices and other

Due to the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

Due to the location of the School's Church St James The Great Wrigthington with Heskin the school hosts majority of acts of Worship. Transport will be arranged for important Christian festivals throughout the year.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

A variety of Bible Stories

Links with the Church year by marking Holy Days

Visitors

Multi cultural secular and faith stories

Reflections

Poetry

Games and activities

Current trends in the children's world

National and World celebrations and events

Worship material from charities

Plenty of interaction to make the connection to the child's world.



## **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

### **Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an Aided school.

### **Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

### **Worship in Church**

#### **Aided Schools.**

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school Brochure.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England (Methodist) Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England (Methodist) ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

### **Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese, (or, in the case of the Methodist Church, the complaint would be referred to the Superintendent Minister and then the Connexional Authorities).

This policy was reviewed September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.