



HUNDON AND THURLOW PRIMARY FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: Summer 2019

Date of next review: Summer 2020

Approved by Governing Body: 10.07.19

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Collective Worship Lead: Mrs Jackie Betts

Designated Governor: Mrs Emma Pitt

Collective Worship Policy

Statement of the Law

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship "**shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**" (7:1)

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- this may be as a whole school or in different age groups
- the act of worship may happen at any time of the day
- the act of worship has to take place on school premises. VC schools may hold acts of collective worship off the school premises provided that these are in addition to the statutory acts of worship on the school premises.
- in VC schools it is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that an act of collective worship happens everyday
- in VC schools the character and content of worship is determined by governing bodies in accordance with their trust deeds
- the right to withdraw from school worship extends to teachers in VC schools
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from school worship in any school

The Character of Worship for Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School and Hundon Community Primary School

Within the Federation we plan and deliver engaging and meaningful acts of Collective Worship that we refer to as our Reflection Time. Within Collective Worship we follow a four-fold structure of *Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending* which follows the Anglican structure of liturgical services. The gathering serves to welcome everyone; which we do by offering a greeting i.e. "Peace be with you" and a response of "And also with you" or some other suitable greeting and response. We use music to provide an atmosphere for quiet reflection upon entering and exiting Collective Worship.

The Engagement aspects takes the form of a story/parable based on scripture at Thurlow. The same is used at Hundon as well as a focus on 'moral' messages based on the Federation's values; we periodically invite speakers in to talk to the children, we use film and visual materials, poetry and drama to stimulate ideas.

We Respond by having a moment of reflection on the message, before a daily prayer, sometimes written and lead by the children themselves. The final part (the sending out) mirrors the dismissal at the end of the Eucharist; where Christians are challenged to go out, determined and joyful to live lives that serve to make a difference in the world.

The Family Celebration Presentations on a Friday at both our schools serves as an opportunity for individual classes to showcase their learning to the wider community of family and friends. Within this act of worship, we celebrate achievement inside and outside of school, we announce the team point totals achieved by our individual teams and we share 'Golden Mentions' where children have demonstrated our values during the week; these are read from our 'Golden Book'.

The acts of collective worship are planned so as to give the children a variety of worshipful experience. The learning together is based on our 'Values for Life' interspersed with Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning [SEAL] themes and festivals such as Remembrance, Harvest, Christmas and Easter. These experiences might include:

- The telling of stories - from the bible, from other faiths and cultures, from biographies and from fiction
- A time for children to express their own opinions, through discussion and drama
- From poetry and dance encouraging the children to appreciate the wonder of life
- Using music to provide an atmosphere for quiet reflection
- Celebrating life by singing hymns and songs together
- Film and other visual materials
- Inviting speakers to the school
- A time in the week when we celebrate the achievements of individuals or whole class groups

A Worshipful Response

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through:

Silent reflection

Thoughtful spoken response

Spoken Prayer

The singing of songs

Liturgical responses (The Lord be with you - And also with you etc)

Taking an active part in reflection time, or even on occasions leading reflection.

The prayers used may be ones that the children have written themselves, traditional prayers or short prayers led by the teacher or visitor. They are based on our 'Values for Life' themes and other Christian themes such as:- Forgiveness, Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Friendship, Honesty, Humility, Justice, Peace, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Service, Thankfulness, Trust, Truth, and Wisdom.

Children are invited to make a prayer their own by saying "Amen" (I agree) or by responding to "Lord, in your mercy" - "Hear our Prayer" and other liturgical responses. The modern version of the Lord's Prayer is taught and used on appropriate occasions.

Songs are carefully selected to reflect the themes.

The Collective Worship Leader plans the collective worship sessions using appropriate materials from a range of books and internet resources. The Collective Worship file, with the plans and materials are to be found in the staff-room. A record is kept in the planning file of all themes and material used. Teachers take it in turn to lead Collective Worship for a week at a time [excluding Fridays] so that they have time to develop the week's theme.

Aims for Collective Worship at Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School and Hundon Community Primary School

Our schools' acts of worship aim to:

- help children to develop shared values and beliefs
- provide an opportunity for those who want to worship God
- help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them
- offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships
- provide regular time and opportunity for reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern, to the broader and more lasting concerns of life
- provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears.

- develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs
- provide time to share with others the things they have been doing, their thoughts and ideas
- give children experience of being active members of a caring community
- respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed etc.
- connect to the rest of the curriculum including our Rwandan link and environmental concerns

Creating an Appropriate Setting For Collective Worship

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school halls, the classrooms and occasionally our local churches. In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship the schools create a focal point through:

Displays on the theme

A table with a cloth to reflect the Church of England calendar

A lighted candle

Other artefacts to enhance a message

Music

Silence for reflection

Prayers written by children

The Federation's Organisation of Collective Worship (Reflection Time)

Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School has recently involved the children in the planning and leadership of collective worship.

There is an act of collective worship each day as follows:

Monday	Whole School Reflection Time	10.30 - 10.45
Tuesday	Whole School Reflection Time	10.30 - 10.45
Wednesday	Whole School Reflection Time	10.30 - 10.45
Thursday	Whole School Team Reflection	10.30 - 10.45
Friday	Family Celebration Presentation	Thurlow 9-00 - 9.20 Hundon 2.50-3.10

Our local Rector (at Hundon only currently) leads worship approximately once every two weeks. Other visitors also lead worship such as charities we support or invited guests.

Our Friday gathering is a Celebration Presentation to which parents are invited. We celebrate the good work and behaviour which has happened during the week. Acts of worship are occasionally held at the church, these include our Christingle Service, Harvest Festival and Easter Service. We also celebrate particularly: Ascension Day by holding an Ascension Nature Walk and a Pentecost Party; school calendar permitting; and Advent and Easter Pause Days where we collectively devote extra curriculum time to explore key aspects of the Church year.

All parents have a right to withdraw their children from the act of Collective Worship. Parents should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher; the onus is on the parents to provide suitable alternative RE/Collective Worship materials for their child during these periods of withdrawal; however, it is the school's responsibility to supervise the child during these periods if they are to remain in school and not taken off site for other religious instruction.

Teachers may also wish to withdraw from a Collective Act of Worship. Teachers should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher on the understanding that they undertake some other aspect of the curriculum in the sessions where they would otherwise be teaching B.R.A.V.E