



## Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been considered in line with our vision – ‘Caring, Believing, Achieving’.

At Hatherop C of E Primary School, we are committed to nurturing the individuality of each child in a caring community rich in Christian values. Our vision is that children develop a love for learning in a creative and stimulating environment where they can achieve their full potential.

As a Church of England school, daily worship is an integral part of school life. We consider it to be a valuable opportunity to meet together as a whole ‘family’ and to address not only spiritual and religious aspects of life, but to reinforce the Christian values that underpin our school.

### **Legal Requirement**

Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

There is a daily act of Christian worship where the children learn to listen to each other and to share personal experiences and feelings in a supportive atmosphere. It is conducted in an atmosphere of calm reflection where music and prayer are important features.

### **Inclusion and withdrawal**

Collective worship is central to the life of the school; however, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of the worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right, parent/carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the Head Teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

### **Aims**

- To develop an awareness of the presence of God and to appreciate the diversity and beauty of the world in which we live.
- To understand the responsibilities that we have to look after our world.

- To become aware of the special relationship between God and people, and to learn about the life of Jesus and the impact he had.
- To develop Christian standards, values and attitudes through the example set by Jesus.
- To provide opportunities for reflection, praise and thanksgiving.
- For all pupils to value each other and recognise that they all belong to a world-wide family in which everybody needs valuing equally.
- To respect other people's beliefs and commitment

### **Our Vision and Values**

The school's vision, 'Caring, Believing, Achieving' is developed through our twelve Christian values: Friendship, Generosity, Thankfulness, Trust, Respect, Forgiveness, Truthfulness, Compassion, Perseverance, Creativity, Encouragement and Courage.

Here at Hatherop CofE Primary School we encourage children to understand the Christian values and promote the Christian values through celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and through prayer and reflection.

Pupils who demonstrate the value of the term are acknowledged and celebrated during worship, by being presented with certificates, Sir Value Bear and lunch time awards. In this way we embed the values in our school life and use worship to acknowledge these achievements.

Using our vision, we seek to develop our six core values through:

**Caring** – Friendship and Generosity – we encourage children to care for each other and the world they live in

**Believing** – Forgiveness and Respect – we want all our children to grow in their own faith and to respect others.

**Achieving** – Perseverance and Encouragement – we aim to promote a love of learning and encourage a desire to achieve their goals through resilience and hard work.

### **Content of Daily Worship**

As a Church of England school, the content of our worship is organized to:

- Follow a half termly, 2 year cycle to cover our 12 Christian Values
- Cover all the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost
- Be rooted in Biblical teaching
- Use prayers and bible texts linked to the value of the term and others written by pupils
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time
- Be led regularly by pupils
- Celebrate successes and achievements

### **Special Services and Visitors**

We value our links with local church community and hold our Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in church. The clergy regularly lead worship and always attend our services in the church. Where possible we also invite other members of the community in to lead worship and in particular the Open The Book Team who lead worship every fortnight. Other visitors from the Salvation Army, the local youth worker, and other organisations eg the Cirencester Foodbank are invited to lead or contribute to our worship. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective worship.

### **Planning**

Worship is planned using the two year rolling programme. Themes are planned and delivered by the Headteacher and members of staff, and stories from the Bible, as well as other religions and secular stories with a message are used.

### **Resources**

Children's Bibles in varying formats  
Roots and Fruits  
Values for Life  
The Lion Book of Children's Prayers  
Junior Praise Hymn books  
Come and Praise Hymn books  
CD's  
Videos  
Artefacts brought in by adults or children themselves

The policy was reviewed by the Curriculum committee in January 2021 and approved by the Full Governing Board in March 2022.  
Next review due January 2024