



Collective Worship Policy

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100 – Psalm for giving grateful praise

At Hurst Knoll St James' CE Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

'Inspiring faith and learning for life'

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We have identified the values of trust, hope, forgiveness and justice as the four most appropriate values for our school at this time. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

We use the Imaginor, 'Roots and Fruits – Creative Collective Worship on Christian Values Themes' programme as the basis for this teaching.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher with the focus on a specific Christian Value each half term (see Collective Worship Timetable)
Tuesday	Classroom worship led by class teacher with a follow up lesson from the whole school assembly the day before
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by Reverend from the Parish of the Good Shepherd or 'value' assemblies led by the faith leadership team (school Christian values) or house captains (British values)
Thursday	Classroom worship led by class teacher with the use of 'Picture News' resources to discuss current global issues and link to Christian values. This weekly focus is displayed in the hall on a Monday allowing pupils to be aware and giving opportunity to discuss with their peers the 'event' of the week before the classroom worship
Friday	Whole school celebration assembly led by the Headteacher with a celebration of each class' 'Star of the Week' and any other awards achieved in school or within the community. The last assembly of each half term will be a celebration of the Christian value for that half term

The assembly/worship should last approximately 25 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the three candles on the altar table (representing God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) being lit before or after the children enter the hall in silence accompanied by an instrumental piece of music linked to the half termly Christian value. This piece of music is the hymn for the half term specifically focusing on the value. The worship starts with the school prayer and the children are regularly involved in the worship, which always involves a hymn/song, reflection and finishes with a prayer relevant to the current value/theme.

The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Classes follow up learning from Monday's assembly on Tuesday with a lesson related to the Christian value focus. The format is similar to Monday's whole school worship, although, no hymn is sung.

Wednesday's collective worship led by a Reverend from the Parish of the Good Shepherd follows the same format as Monday with the children entering the hall to the same piece of music. The Reverend delivers worship specific to Christianity globally before singing a hymn/song and finishing with a prayer. This is usually twice a half term.

Wednesday's collective worship led by the Faith Leadership Team focuses on one of the school Christian values – Trust, Hope, Forgiveness and Justice. This is to ensure these values are a key focus across each school year. These assemblies will be once a half term.

Wednesday's collective worship led by the House Captains focuses on one of the British values – Democracy, Law, Liberty and Tolerance (our four houses). This is to ensure these values are a key focus across each school year. These assemblies will be once a half term.

Thursday's worship is supported by 'Picture News', a weekly subscription to a newspaper and assembly package which focuses on current global events. A key question and poster provides a visual stimulus to support discussion and differentiated learning for KS1 and KS2 allowing teachers to support learning at the correct level. Where appropriate teachers will link this to Christian values.

The Celebration Assembly on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. The children enter the hall to a piece of modern music with a celebration theme. This creates a different atmosphere to the Monday and Wednesday assemblies specifically. Normally, teachers choose one member of their class to receive a 'Star of the Week' certificate and special mention (the gold book is completed in the week and parents are invited to the assembly). This takes place first followed by any other awards and celebrations, including the Headteacher award which goes to a pupil who has shown an example of using one of the school Christian values. They receive a certificate, badge and wooden cross. There are also awards from the Headboy and Headgirl as well as sports values. The assembly ends with the Celebration Assembly prayer.

At the end of every half term, the focus of the Celebration Assembly is the Christian Value for that half term. The format is the same but the teacher chooses a child or children who have shown good examples of the value over that half term. These children receive a special Christian Value certificate.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the School Prayer, Lord's Prayer and Celebration Prayer which are displayed in the hall. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged as the children come into the hall and sit down in silence. A cross is also displayed above the altar table.

At the beginning of the school day, lunch time and end of school, a prayer (separate for EY/KS1 and KS2) is said by either an adult or child in each class. At lunchtime if the Midday Supervisor is available they join the class for the prayer. This is the signal that lunchtime has started and the teacher has handed over the class to the Midday Supervisor.

The school has a Prayer Tree, in the entrance area of the school. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and clip them onto the tree. Sometimes these are related to the Value for the half term, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer. These prayers are then taken down to St James Church and read out.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. We celebrate all faiths and cultures through assemblies at special times of the year e.g. Diwali and Eid and through visits to different houses of worship. Every year group studies a different religion as part of their RE curriculum.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the collective worship curriculum, Hurst Knoll St James ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences

and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St James Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers’ Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from collective worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

As a school we have a link governor for RE/Collective Worship. The leader and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of RE/Collective Worship and this ensures an effective line of communication between the leader and the governing body.#

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Christian values and global Christianity

At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Revised and adopted by the Governing Body Spring 2018