



## **Collective Worship Policy**

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 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 Gloucester Diocese, 'Values for Life - Teaching Christian Values' 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 a minister from the Parish of the Good Shepherd
- Thursday Hymns with prayer/reflection time led by a classteacher on a rota basis
- 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 candles on the altar table being lit before the children enter the hall in silence accompanied by a piece of music for the week linked to the Christian value focus for the week. The title of this piece of music is displayed for the children to see throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which always involves a hymn/song and finishes with a prayer.

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.

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 follow up learning from Mondays 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 minister 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 minister delivers worship specific to the Christian value and linked to Mondays collective worship before singing a hymn/song and finishing with a prayer.

Thursday's hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candles are blown out and messages are given.

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 members 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. The children then sing a hymn/song. Before the assembly finishes with the celebration prayer a ticket is chosen out of the treasure chest to celebrate a child who has done something particularly good that week. They choose their prize after assembly.

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 and wrist band.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. 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 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 R.E. lessons 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 R.E. The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator 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 R.E.

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.

**Adopted by the Governing Body Autumn 2014**