



## Collective Worship Policy

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Author	L Guillian & L Cowler
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Headteacher	Mrs Lynda Cowler
Chair of Governors	Mr Michael Johnson

This policy intends to outline the policy and procedure for collective worship at Hormead Church of England (Voluntary Aided) First School. It has been written in accordance with our School Vision and Values which are firmly rooted in this policy.

### School Vision

**Love of Learning, Love of Life itself, and Love of God**

*"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10)*

**A natural home for all children and adults to have the opportunity to flourish within the community, in a unique and happy school rooted in Christian values.**

### Our Values

Our school values are firmly rooted in our Christian character and underpin our responses, decisions and interactions as a community.

<b>LOVE</b>		<b>We love learning. We treat each other with love and respect.</b> "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34
<b>CO-OPERATION</b>		<b>We work well together. We share our ideas. We listen to others. We give others a chance to speak.</b> "Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:13
<b>COURAGE</b>		<b>We are brave as we meet new challenges</b> "When I am afraid I put my trust in you." Psalm 56.3
<b>KINDNESS</b>		<b>We say kind things to each other. We say please and thank you.</b> "Be kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32
<b>HONESTY</b>		<b>We always tell the truth. We say sorry if we have done something wrong. We forgive each other</b> "Tell the truth to each other." Zechariah." 8:16
<b>RESILIENCE</b>		<b>We learn from our mistakes. We have a growth mindset – we try and try again.</b> "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13
<b>ASPIRATION</b>		<b>We aim high and always do our best. We set goals to achieve.</b> "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life."

## Philosophy

Hormead C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Worship is therefore an integral part of our church school life. It is the 'heartbeat' of Hormead, providing a space where pupils and staff can come together to worship God, to reflect on 'life in all its fullness' and allowing opportunities for all to grow spiritually. Worship is attended every morning at 9am by all pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

All schools are required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship. In Church of England schools, the Bible and the life and teaching of Jesus underpin collective worship which is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

## Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools in the Diocese must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

1. The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.  
*'The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.'* *The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*
2. Collective worship in Church schools must be in accordance with the school's trust deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

## Collective Worship and the school's Trust Deed

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in St Nicholas Church.

## Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Hormead School that worship should:

- reflect the school's trust deed
- reflect and underpin the Christian values and Vision of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

## Guidelines

Collective Worship should be 'a rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration' We understand worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. In line with the Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our Collective Worship, however, in a manner that is sensitive to the variety of faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. While acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also recognise and ensure that other religions are represented in our school, in our teaching of RE and through the wider community.

## Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The headteacher takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship with the support of the Clergy.

## Timing of Collective Worship

At Hormead school we hold Collective Worship every morning straight after registration. Worship is approximately 15 to 20 minutes. On some days, worship is held in the classrooms but mostly in the school hall. During the summer months, we gather together outside on the playground.

Our daily plan for assemblies is listed below:

Monday	Worship Assembly (led by Headteacher)
Tuesday	House Assembly (led by all teachers in house groups)
Wednesday	Singing Assembly (led by a teacher, on a rota)
Thursday	Worship Assembly (led by Reverend James)
Friday	Celebration Assembly (led by Headteacher)

## Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

Each half term there is a theme for collective worship based on the Church year and Christian Values. We use the themes provided through the Roots and Fruits planning to link with our own school Christian values. Themes may also relate to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and will include opportunities for the development of PSHE, Citizenship and the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children according to the Ofsted Framework for Schools. Worship is planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all and allows for a variety of responses, including awareness and appreciation, respect and commitment, and devotion and adoration.

Each act of collective worship should include one or more of the following elements:

- celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and of other faiths.
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Topical matters from the news or the locality
- Using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity (love of life itself)
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others
- Visitors who will inspire our children to be better people of the world.
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children’s own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection.
- Use of music and singing
- Drama
- Use of appropriate artefacts
- Use of ‘What’s in the box?’ With Bible, candle, cross
- Participation of children
- Using responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship.

Plans are published at the beginning of the year and shared with staff each term for the coming term to prepare for planning and ensure consistency. All those leading collective worships are asked to plan their act of worship as they would any other learning activity. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worships to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the half term the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Our pattern of worship is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the planning and evaluation process. School Worship Council members regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these findings to the Worship Council lead teacher and head teacher.

Our Friday worship assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of all children. We encourage the children to participate in the assembly by sharing their achievements, both in and out of school, with the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school where they have been noticed demonstrated our school's Christian values.

Furthermore, our assemblies also provide opportunities for awe and wonder, to ask the big questions that the children may have about the world around them and discuss them with their peers. Children are invited to complete 'I wonder...' slips where they document their big questions. One slip is drawn weekly, displayed in the school Hall, and then promotes discussion both within collective worship and within class talk throughout the week.

### **Role of the Clergy**

Staff and children take part in regular church services throughout the academic year to coincide with both the Christian and school's academic calendar. These services involve the whole school community, parents, members of the local community and are led by the children and our school vicar. In addition, Reverend James delivers Collective Worship every Thursday and stays in school to support with school reading and getting to know the children. Members of the clergy are also welcomed in school to support with RE provision and adopt a pastoral role for both children and staff.

### **Services at St Nicholas Church**

St Nicholas Church is a familiar place of worship for children and adults of Hormead School.

Each term one of the classes leads the worship at St Nicholas Church. Parents, families and members of the community are welcome to join any of our services. Children in the classes take full responsibility to lead these, with the help of their class teacher and Reverend James Sawyer but often with their own ideas of what they want to say.

Our services are as follows:

- **Harvest Festival** led by Year 2 class
- **Remembrance Service** led by Year 1 class (takes place at the village memorial)
- **Christingle Service** led by Year 3 & 4 class
- **Easter Service** led by Reception Class

### **Liturgy**

Anglican Worship has a clear liturgical pattern. At Hormead, our pattern for worship is as follows:

- All acts of worship follow the pattern: Gather, Engage, Respond and Send.
- For assemblies that Gather in our school Hall, children are expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly. Appreciation music will be played as the children are walking in and the children are encouraged to sit quietly and use this time as a moment of stillness and calm while they are waiting for the act of worship to begin.
- Worship assemblies in our school Hall always begin by engaging children with the 'opening of the box'. Three children are chosen to come to the front to place Christian symbols from the box on the table to signify the start of worship. Everyone responds as they take out the symbols, as follows:
  - We take out the Bible to remember God the Father
  - We take out the Cross to remember Jesus the Son
  - We take out the Candle to welcome the Holy Spirit
  - We light the candle and say, Jesus Christ is the light of the world, we welcome him today.

Usually there is something else in the box for the children to take out which will give them a clue of what today's worship will be about.

- Our worship follows the pattern of liturgical calendar. The Church year is divided into several seasons represented by a different colour cloth that is placed on the worship table. Children in our school, volunteer to help changing the cloth with Reverend James. Our journey begins with Advent, which looks forward to

Christmas. The visit of the wise men to Jesus is remembered at Epiphany, after which there is a period of 'ordinary time'. The six weeks of Lent prepare us for Easter, which celebrates Jesus's resurrection, leading forward to his Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost. 'Ordinary time' then resumes until the end of the year.

- Children are encouraged to engage and respond in worships. They may be asked to read stories from the bible, take part in drama, use movement to mime, ask and respond to questions, invited to pray.
- Our worship begins and ends with liturgical greeting. Children are taught the responses.
  - The Lord be with you **And, also with you.**
  - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**
- Within each assembly, there will be a quiet time for reflection or prayer. Prayers may be from a variety of sources including: collections of prayers, teachers' own resources or children's own work, they may also be impromptu. Short poems or quotations may also be used.
- Songs are often used to form part of worship, beyond the designated singing assembly.
- Any notices will be clearly separated from the rest of the act of worship and will be given at the end of assembly before the children leave.
- Once a half term, Collective Worship will be led by our school 'Worship Council', a group of pupils from Birch and Oak Classes.

## Prayer

Prayer forms part of our daily worship, however, prayer is invitational. Prayer may be part of the period of reflection and stillness with children invited to participate in prayer if they wish, if not, they are asked to respect the moment of quiet in a way they choose best. Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example, when using a prayer from a particular faith, this will be introduced with sensitivity and pupils will not be required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe.

Children at Hormead are invited to learn the Lord's Prayer, as well as our school prayer, and these are used on an almost daily basis.

Our school prayer is shared with parents in our school prospectus. Children are encouraged to learn our prayer which encompasses our school Vision: Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God.

### Hormead School Prayer

This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here.  
Let it be full of contentment,  
Let love abide here.  
Love of one another,  
Love of learning,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.  
Let us remember that,  
As many hands make a house,  
So many hearts make a school.  
**Amen.**

Children are also invited to join in a lunchtime prayer which is sung aloud before the children leave their classrooms to eat.

### Hormead Lunchtime Prayer

Bless us O' God  
As we sing together,  
Bless the food we eat today,  
Bless the hands that make the food,  
Bless us O' God  
**Amen.**

Children write their own prayers too. These are put in the special class prayer book to share at the end of the day or children can add their prayer to the prayer box in the hall.

## **Singing**

The act of singing can be a very positive opportunity for celebration or reflection and an important opportunity for expression. The selection of songs will respect the integrity of those present. Singing assemblies will include an opportunity for pupils to reflect on some of the words they are singing and to respond through a moment of quietness or prayer in an atmosphere that is one of reverence. The songs sang at Hormead are of Christian faith for the most part however, on occasions, other songs will be sung that bring our community together e.g having a growth mindset, or being a family. Songs chosen for the week are displayed on our whole school song chart.

## **Right to Withdraw**

At Hormead School, we seek to be an inclusive community; however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request but they do have to put it in writing to the Headteacher. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and is restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

In our VA school, teachers, including the headteacher, do not have the right of withdrawal.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Good worship happens when children are active participants, not passive spectators and this includes being involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation.

At Hormead, children are involved in the planning or worship wherever possible. Children are involved in planning their 'class celebration assembly' shared with parents once a term. They are involved in planning and delivering their class church service using the Church Service Planning Sheet (appendix 1).

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out by the headteacher, the religious education subject leader, the worship council and the clergy. Some strategies for collecting and monitoring collective worship may include:

- Occasional formal observations of collective worship providing feedback.
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents and governors
- Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes.
- Holding regular discussions and staff meetings with colleagues
- Gathering written comments from colleagues on worship planning.
- Discussions through worship council meetings

the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of our school governor, Reverend James, who is also responsible for liaising with the Religious Education Subject Leader.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed at least every four years.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Church Service Planning Sheet**

Enable the children, as much as possible, to convey the message of the service in their own words or other forms of expression. Think about poems, songs, drama, pictures as well as narrative.

Think about ways the preparation might fit in with work you are already doing in the curriculum or contribute to learning.

Worship is not about slick performance but about authentic messages clearly articulated.

**Words of Welcome** (Headteacher and Reverend)

**Introducing our theme for the day:**

**A song:** (Possibly one the class has learned specially)\*

**Telling a bible story:**

**Explaining our theme** and how it fits to the story:

**Sharing what we have learned:**

**A song** (for everyone to join in):

**Some prayers** (linked to the theme – five simple prayers):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The school prayer (optional in worship )

**The Lord's prayer** (always in worship)

**A final song:**

**A blessing** (from the Reverend)