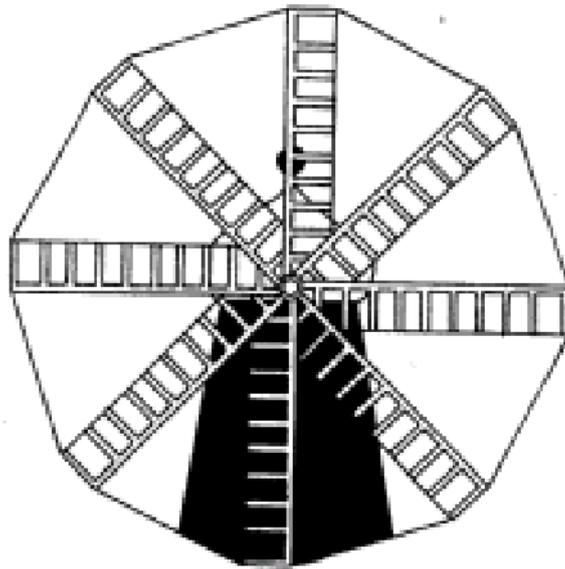


Collective Worship Policy

Heckington St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School



Approved by: Curriculum & Standards Committee **Date:** October 2018

Last reviewed on:

Next review due by: October 2022

The reason for this Policy

This document has been written to explain the policy for Collective Worship at Heckington St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School and interpret legislation set out by the Government. At Heckington St. Andrew's School, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It provides opportunities for our pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. It highlights the aims and ethos of the school:

By our school community living by the Christian principles of respect, resilience, relationships, reverence and responsibility, we will produce children ready for the next stage of their lives.

This policy also reflects the fact that we are a Church of England school but in keeping with the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for RE that assemblies are broadly Christian but may reflect other religions.

Christian Values

As a school community, alongside our 5 Rs, we identify the Christian values of grace, love, Koinonia, forgiveness, service, peace, perseverance and hope.

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

Principles related to the aims and ethos of the school

Our school Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes. We aim to:

- develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity;
- encourage children to become highly motivated life-long learners;
- help pupils' **spiritual** development by teaching them about God and giving them the opportunity to worship Him together. Worship also enables them to hear about God from the Bible, to develop their relationship with Him through prayer, and to reflect on themselves and His world;
- help pupils' **moral** development by taking time to be aware of different life values, while developing a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community;
- promote pupils' **social** development by helping them to feel a part of a community, and will reinforce positive values. Our worship will encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered;
- help pupils' **cultural** development by drawing on the Christian heritage – both through the Bible and other key writing, and through religious festivals and practices.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis throughout school as stated in the 1988 Education Act. Our provision is as follows:

- Collective Worship is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to all staff and governors and parents can be invited;
- It takes place either on the school premises or in the church;
- Collective Worship is planned on a two-year cycle, with specific themes each term, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and levels of understanding in the school.
- It celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Cover all the major Christian Festivals, including Christmas, Harvest and Easter;
- Cover major world religions;
- Cover different Christian values;
- Draw on frequent Bible teachings, particularly as stories;
- Be delivered in a variety of ways; these will usually include music and songs, story and discussion and a time for prayer and reflection.

Our provision is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher;
Tuesday	Whole school choral worship, with prayer and reflection time, led by the Music team;
Wednesday	Key Stage One and Foundation Worship, based on the week's theme, led by KS1 class teachers on a rota basis; Key Stage Two Class Assemblies, based on the week's theme, led by all class teachers
Thursday	Key Stage Two Worship, based on the week's theme, led by all class teachers on a rota basis; Key Stage One and Foundation Class Assemblies, based on the week's theme, led by all class teachers;
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly including good work and stars of the week, led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and including prayer and reflection time.

In addition to this, the school holds a service in Church for Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and Leavers each year.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

All pupils regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to Collective Worship. We are committed to ensuring that every child in school will derive benefit from Collective Worship and every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Withdrawal of Pupils

At Heckington St. Andrew's School we seek to be an inclusive community and as such aim to ensure that Collective Worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship.

Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, they may do so but only following parental discussion with the headteacher and then by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school does not provide any special teaching for children so withdrawn. The headteacher will keep a record of all children withdrawn from Collective Worship.

We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that Collective Worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family."

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship follows a two year cycle and each week/month/term there is theme for Collective Worship based on SEAL / Christian Values / Values for Life etc. These are published at the beginning of term by the Collective Worship Co-Ordinator. Those leading worship that week are expected to relate their worship to these themes. This means that by the end of the week the children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel they need to respond to local or national events.

A Collective Worship file is kept which includes resources for worship as well as recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluations will be recorded here.

Other evaluation strategies used by staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness;
- Feedback from pupils, parents and visitors;
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school, and to one another;
- A focused visit by Foundation Governors.

Self-Assessment and Inspection

School self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by the Collective Worship / RE Leader in consultation with the head teacher and staff.

Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Heckington St. Andrew's School 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.

Success Criteria

This policy will be followed successfully if the children are seen to be responding positively to Collective Worship and their general conduct towards each other is seen to be more constructive and positive.

Drafted by: J Bentley (Collective Worship Leader)

Approved by the Governing Body:

Next Review due: 2020

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

If the religious course includes participating in a form of worship that we consider to be unbiblical, such as bowing before images, Witness parents do not approve of this under any circumstances.

On the other hand, if there is simply objective classroom study of various religions or of the Bible, Jehovah's Witnesses have no objection. So if a school arranges talks by representatives of various religions not to proselytize, but simply to inform the students about those religions, Witness students will respectfully listen. Similarly, when invited, Jehovah's Witnesses are pleased to give talks to school groups, explaining their religious beliefs.

From the booklet School and Jehovah's Witnesses
Pages 26 and 27.