



# Hertford St Andrew C of E School

## Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:

Date:

Last reviewed on:

01.09.24

Next review due by:

October 2026

## Intent for Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Hertford St Andrew is very much part of our daily school life. It allows time and space for reflection and promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children. As a Church of England school, our worship is an integral part of each school day. Collective Worship is child friendly and interactive. Collective Worship is our time to come together as a school community and engage in fellowship with one another. It is our time to engage in scripture or stories and to be still and reflect.

Worship is led by a range of adults (and children) including the Headteacher, class teachers, Reverend Alan and Tracy Plumpton (from Hertford St Andrew Church), and visitors from the wider community. Worship includes Bible readings, songs and hymns, current affairs, British Values, wellbeing topics and PSHCE. It promotes valued behaviours.

We also share in each other's joys during our Celebration Worship on Fridays where Shining Light awards are given to children nominated by not just class teachers but those in our wider school community and engage in song through Singing Worship on Wednesdays. The children sing traditional hymns as well as well known songs that best fit our Christian Ethos as a school including *'This Little Light of Mine'* *'My Lighthouse'* - by Rend Collective and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Children are also able to share in invitational prayer during worship, whether together as the whole school or during Classroom Worship.

This information can also be found on our website.

## Requirements and Aims

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

### The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school/academy day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools/academies are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship. This includes gatherings at places of religious worship, school plays of a religious character (eg Nativity Plays) and celebrations of faith based holidays. The school will agree to all requests. To avoid confusion, the school will ask for confirmation in writing of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/s would object to their child/ren taking part
- Whether the child can be physically present for collective worship but not take part in it
- Whether the parent will require advance notice of worship, and how much
- Agreed and practical alternatives to collective worship.

The school will arrange with parents alternative arrangements for their child/ren during collective worship. School will seek to support time for prayer and reflection in a child's own faith, providing it is consistent with the school curriculum and ethos (1988 Act) and can be provided without additional cost to the school.

## Implementation

Collective Worship happens daily at 9.00am in the hall. All Years from 1 to 6 attend.

**Monday: Themed Worship – SLT led**

**Tuesday: Church led worship**

**Wednesday: Singing Worship**

## **Thursday: Themed worship – teacher led**

## **Friday: Celebration worship –Headteacher led. Shining Lights awards.**

(All community members to nominate children for shining lights awards – sheet is in staff room weekly)

There may be times when worship takes place in the classroom. The teacher responsible will plan resources for each class.

## **EYFS**

EYFS have class worship until the Summer term when they gradually join whole school worship. Church led worship is on a Wednesday in EYFS.

## **Practice**

At HSA all worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring. We respect that our children come from all faiths and none.

We use the GERS model.

GATHER – light the candle (liturgical colour), bring everyone together, say good morning: English, Sign and Spanish

ENGAGE – stories, drama, discussion

REFLECT – prayer and meditation. Children are invited into their 'prayer bodies'. Staff can use this script:

"I invite you to come now to your prayer bodies. You are in your own space. Body is facing the front, legs are crossed. Hands may be in your lap, or come together. Your eyes may be looking down, or gently closed. We take a deep breath in and a slow breath out. You can stay like that and continue to enjoy a moment of calm or you can join me in prayer as I say: Dear God..."

Prayer may be freeform or recognised. The Lords' prayer follows the traditional version. We remember that prayer may be:

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. Therefore:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

We aim to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

## Planning information

### **Resources**

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We have a collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. Those leading worship also access professional development opportunities.

### **Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of Collective Worship and surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. We intend to make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria.

### **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

### **Implementation of Policy**

The headteacher as Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.