



## HEYTESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

#### Mission Statement

*“Nurturing today’s minds for tomorrow’s world”*

#### Vision Statement

Heytesbury School strives to provide all children with a safe and secure learning environment. We set high standards and expectations to enable all children to do their best and achieve their full potential. A key feature of the school is our caring family atmosphere underpinned by our Church of England ethos.

At all times we offer encouragement and support. When needed, forgiveness, reconciliation, help and guidance is readily given. We want all children to establish a good foundation of knowledge and skills that, not only prepares them for the intellectual challenge presented by secondary school life, but also helps them to develop the social skills and attitudes that are needed in our rapidly changing world.

Our ethos is summed up by focussing on the following six values:

Hope, Courage, Friendship, Forgiveness, Wisdom, Truthfulness

Through adhering to these values we will ensure that the school environment is a safe and caring place where our children can, share, consider and experience ethical enquiry in order to cultivate habits required for good moral conduct.

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>School lead</b>   | <b>C Bourne</b>  |
| <b>Governor lead</b> | <b>A Perry</b>   |
| <b>Last Review</b>   | <b>July 2016</b> |
| <b>Revised</b>       | <b>June 2017</b> |
| <b>Next review</b>   | <b>July 2018</b> |

# Collective Worship Policy

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## Local Requirements

Heytesbury Church of England Primary School is Voluntary Aided. The Trust Deeds state that worship should be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. In accordance with legal requirements, an act of worship is provided daily. Staff are required to attend the act of worship.

## Rationale

It is our aim that children and staff should enjoy acts of worship together in order to reflect how faith and belief impact on our daily lives. There is a clear expectation that all children and staff will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that aims are clear. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual development and growth of pupils and staff and to the building up of the school community. Acts of worship allow the development of an understanding of the Anglican traditions which underpin the Christian faith.

## Collective worship aims to:

- be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners so that they can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and life within school.
- provide opportunities for reflection about life issues and allow pupils and staff to respond with integrity.
- strengthen and support the school, local and wider community .
- challenge learners of all backgrounds to embark on their own journey of spirituality, and develop the value of prayer, stillness, and reflection.
- include Biblical material, and an introduction to the style and practice of the Church of England within the context of the Church's Year, including traditional responses and prayers, hymns, time for reflection and a focus on Values for Life.
- deepen the spiritual dimension of life and explore an awareness of the Divine.
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling all learners to have a strong understanding of the Holy Trinity

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Heytesbury School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate achievement and effort
- sharing and experiencing differences, successes and difficulties
- the development of a culture of learning
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- providing a break from the rush of life

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- exploring feelings and emotions
- speaking, listening and responding to an audience
- developing inner awareness
- embedding traditional British values

## Planning

Acts of worship explore a termly value and/or are related to events in the Church Year. A rich variety of prayers, music, story and symbol will be used to enhance worship; times of reflection and silence are included. Structured reflection may be used in response to international, national or local events. The 'Values for Life' material forms the basis of the planning for collective worship.

Worship leaders provide outline planning for each term's worship, taken from the 'Values for Life' material, the relevant section of which will be displayed in the staff room for further reference. A display to celebrate, enhance and provide a reference for each Value will be situated in the hall, and changed on a termly basis.

Staff, pupils or visitors who deliver worship follow the structure: Gather, engage, respond, send.

## Worship Values Cycle:

|                           | Term 1     | Term 2     | Term 3       | Term 4      | Term 5                   | Term 6           |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Year A<br/>2014/15</b> | Trust      | Generosity | Perseverance | Service     | Peace                    | Thankfulness     |
| <b>Year B<br/>2015/16</b> | Friendship | Compassion | Courage      | Creativity  | Hope                     | Responsibility   |
| <b>Year C<br/>2016/17</b> | Wisdom     | Humility   | Truthfulness | Forgiveness | Respect and<br>Reverence | Justice*<br>Hope |

\*In May 2017, six core values from those listed above, were identified in order to create a foundation for the ethos of the school: Hope, Courage, Friendship, Wisdom, Truth and Forgiveness. To embed these values, a break from the three year Cycle has been taken, and these six Values will provide the focus for Worship as follows

|                     | Term 1     | Term 2  | Term 3 | Term 4      | Term 5 |
|---------------------|------------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|
| <b>Interim year</b> | Friendship | Courage | Wisdom | Forgiveness | Truth  |

## Our timetable for Collective worship

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|        | Monday       | Tuesday       | Wednesday    | Thursday      | Friday                                      |
|--------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| Type   | Whole School | Whole School  | Whole School | Class         | Whole School                                |
| Led by | Head teacher | Open the Book | Vicar        | Class teacher | Teacher/ worship leaders from Badgers Class |

## Evaluation and reflection

All participants may be involved in the evaluation process.

Staff may add comments to planning documents to inform future planning. Views of pupils are sought within each class at the end of each term. This may be in any form: written, drawn or spoken and can be recorded in RE books.

Time is given in staff meetings to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship.

## Opportunities for acts of worship at other times of the school day

At certain points of the school day, for example, before lunch or at the end of the day, or when otherwise appropriate, children are enabled and encouraged to engage in a moment of quiet contemplation. Silent, traditional, or spontaneous prayers are led by the children in order to involve each individual in active participation and engagement with this time of reflection.

Areas of reflection are situated in each classroom and in the hall. A garden of Remembrance is located at the front of the school. Children or staff may use these spaces as they feel necessary.

## Monitoring

Collective Worship is monitored within the school's normal review cycle.

Foundation governors attend worship periodically and are included in the monitoring process.

Monitoring will include consideration of resourcing, budget and INSET issues; minutes of discussions (Staff or Governors) re Collective Worship, will be included with planning documents to inform future planning.

## The right of withdrawal from Worship

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We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from worship on the grounds of conscience.

We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education in our schools.