



**Haselbury Plucknett Church of  
England  
First School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

**This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England First School.**

**Date completed: September 2017**

**Adopted by Governors: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**signed on behalf of governors**  
**(signed copies in policy folder)**

**Date for review: November 2020 Review by Head/FGB**

# Haselbury Plucknett CE First School

## Collective Worship Policy

### **Ethos Statement**

Recognising the historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop the religious character of Haselbury Plucknett Church of England First School in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocese level. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all of its pupils.

### **Background**

A daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. This Collective Worship Policy has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the headteacher and teaching staff and we have expressed our commitment through our school ethos (see above).

Our school is a Voluntary Controlled School with a religious character and collective worship is delivered in accordance with the Trust Deed relating to the school. The school believes that Collective Worship has an important place in the life of the school, in shaping the ethos and Christian values of the school and in contributing to the pupil's spiritual and moral development.

### **Our Policy**

- This policy takes account of worship guidelines published by The Diocese of Bath and Wells.
- In line with The Section 23 Inspection Handbook Collective Worship at our school is 'broad and balanced in its use of mainly Christian material including, when appropriate, aspects of the Anglican tradition.' We make good use of the local church in addition to our school hall and classrooms for worship.
- The faith background of staff and children is respected at all times. DFE Circular 1/94\*, paragraph 32 states that an agreed syllabus 'must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.'

### **Aims and Objectives**

#### **Collective worship will:-**

- Explore together Christian beliefs and values
- Develop a sense of belonging and offer an experience of worship
- Develop an awareness of spiritual, and moral values and capacity for enjoyment.
- Celebrate shared journey into and with God
- Offer time for spiritual journey and an insight into spiritual aspects beyond the material
- Support Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of individuals and PHSE teaching programmes.

### **Responsibilities**

- The governing body has overall responsibility of the Collective Worship Policy. Any issues arising from the schools SIAMS report (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), identified from parental questionnaires or through monitoring procedures from the subject leader are addressed through action points in the development plan or the subject leadership plan.
- Collective Worship is managed by the headteacher, with support from the Ex-Officio, the R.E. Subject Leader, the PSHE subject leader and the R.E. Link Governor, who will review the policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

### **Organisation**

We have adopted the Collective Worship plans developed by the Diocese of Leicester as recommended by the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Please see the link below for the termly plans. Every teacher and our local Ex-Officio have copies. Individual staff members and the Ex-Officio in consultation with the Headteacher are

responsible for the day to day organising of collective worship which may include inviting visitors. The school liaises and seeks support from the diocesan education department. Equal opportunities, special needs issues and racial equality issues are acknowledged in our collective worship themes, PSHE, circle time and R.E. teaching.

<http://www.leicester-dbe.com/collective-worship/>

Collective Worship Weekly Timetable (see attached sheet)

### **Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place daily and is delivered by the headteacher, teachers, children, the local church team as well as visiting speakers. The venues for worship include the hall space in the Pratten building, classrooms and St Michael and All Angels Church. Worship is usually organised for the whole-school but there are also class acts of worship. Each of these groupings lends itself to a different kind of worship where children may benefit from a richer, broader experience of collective worship. The school visits St Michael's Church in Haselbury at least termly for a worship or for a service to commemorate special events in the religious calendar (e.g. Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Easter). Acts of Collective Worship at the church will be open to the whole school community at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Collective worship should not be confused with 'Assembly' when only information is given out, good work celebrated or behaviour is discussed. Collective Worship is organised by the Collective worship co-ordinator Philip Smith. He liaises with staff, clergy and other visitors.

Our planning ensures that different Christian concepts are delivered weekly. Evaluations are completed by professionals and in consultation with children through pupil forum and school council. Collective Worship is also discussed at relevant INSETS and staff meetings. Foundation Governors will be involved in collective worship and will monitor Collective worship periodically and liaise with the subject co-ordinator.

The Section 23 Inspection Handbook requires Collective Worship to be 'broad and balanced in its use of mainly Christian material, including, when appropriate, aspects of the Anglican tradition'.

We support this approach by:-

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning ☐
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of, Jesus' death and resurrection)
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Saints' Days. ☐
- Saying and learning prayers from a wide range of sources including traditional prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, as well as more contemporary prayers and prayers written by the children
- Singing hymns ranging from modern to traditional ☐
- Participating in aspects of the set order of Anglican worship by, for instance:-
  - using prayers from Common Worship, including the Grace; ☐
  - using sentences and responses from Anglican worship e.g. The Lord is Here/His Spirit is with us; Peace be with you/and also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/In the name of Christ, Amen ☐
  - linking the experiences of pupils at school to those they may experience at their local church and vice versa ☐
  - Providing opportunities to discover the value of reflection and silence with the context of Christian worship ☐
  - Encouraging and nurturing links between the school and the local clergy and other members of the parish

Collective Worship offers an experience of Christian Worship and introduces pupils to the Anglican heritage in a way which is inclusive not exclusive. Opportunities for reflection and prayer are offered in ways which enable children either to join in or remain alongside the worship without feeling left out.

### **Role of the Collective Worship Co-Ordinator**

- The co-ordinator has the responsibility to keep up to date with subject development and share expertise with colleagues.
- The Collective Worship co-ordinator will work in conjunction with the staff and Clergy teams to support Collective Worship in our school.
- This policy will be reviewed as required or annually by the co-ordinator. It is subject to review in accordance with school development planning.

Music, art, prayer and stilling are also used within the context of Collective Worship to help children develop the ability to reflect on their own inner feelings.

### **Parental Right of Withdrawal**

Families who send their children to this school are in the main Christian, but we do have some children from religions other than Christianity as well as those with no formal church links or religious beliefs. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and Religious Education. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship or RE, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE or taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. To avoid misunderstanding the headteacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:-

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught.
- The practical implications of withdrawal (use of spare room -supervised by teaching assistants).
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes.
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much.

In conclusion we believe that Collective Worship at Haselbury Plucknett Church of Englan First School is central to the life and well being of the school. The school serves its community by providing high quality educational provision within the context of Christian belief and practice. Collective Worship encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values, striving to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level.