

HEWORTH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff responsible: Michael Carr

Committee responsible: Church Distinctiveness Group

Governor responsible: Ann Mansfield and Sheila Robson

Approved by Governors: July 2020

Review: July 2023

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and enter his gates with praise! Give thanks to him and bless his name!” Psalms 100:4

At Heworth Primary School we believe that every one of our children is a **unique gift from God** and that we should support them as they learn to **live, flourish** and **worship** in the world today.

Our mission:

*‘To help **each child flourish** as we believe they are all **unique** and a **gift from God**’*

This is rooted in our belief that Jesus came so that everyone can **flourish** and have **‘life in all its fullness’**. At Heworth we want all children to have a full life and know how precious, wonderful and unique they are.

*‘I have come in order that you might have **life—life in all its fullness.**’*
(John 10v10b)

*‘I praise you because **I am wonderfully made.**’*
(Psalm 139v14a)

Central to school life are our four values, learned from the example of Jesus Christ:
Compassion, Trust, Endurance and Forgiveness.

These values are regularly discussed in collective worship and the wider life of the school.

Introduction

Collective Worship at Heworth CE School is an important and valued part of the school day, with all staff being encouraged to attend along with the pupils. It provides both children and staff with a sense of belonging, and reinforces our strong emphasis on mutual care and respect for everyone in the school community. Our Collective Worship Programme develops this approach by encouraging the children to become aware of, and engage in, discussion about important moral, social and religious issues as well as reaching out to the wider community around our school. Collective Worship at Heworth CE School aims to promote **compassion, trust, forgiveness** and **endurance**, as well as allowing children space and time to develop their own response to the Christian message. To help and support all children to flourish as children of God.

Aims

We seek always to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its **compassion** for all who work and learn here. Children are helped to understand

the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

To further this aim we strive:

- For worship to inspire the thinking and day to day action of the whole school community, especially in relation to the school's values.
- To help children to develop **compassion, trust, forgiveness** and **endurance** through Christ's example
- To provide our pupils and staff with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To celebrate all aspects of school life and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship through a range of Anglican tradition and practices.
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs, values and diversity of others.
- To involve children and a wide range of stakeholders in creative and thorough planning of creative worship.
- To include children in regular evaluation of creative worship.

Heworth CE Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we aim that all members of the school community, regardless of background be included in and affirmed by worship. This range will include:

- Those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- Parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- Members of other faith communities
- Those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Under law, parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship, the school must comply. School remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship unless the child is lawfully taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. However, to avoid misunderstanding, school will seek to clarify the following issues with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- **The religious issue about which the parent would object to their child being exposed to**

- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parental wishes
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of specific issues being raised in the future and if so, how much.

Practicalities

Children have opportunities throughout the week to plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship with different groups – some whole school, some Key Stage and some class. Children and staff have the opportunity for prayer and reflection every day and the opportunity for sung worship when Key Stages or the whole school meet together.

An example of a typical week at Heworth:

Day	What	Responsible for organising
Monday	Whole School Worship	Headteacher
Tuesday	Class Worship	Class Teachers
Wednesday	Key Stage Worship	Key Stage Leaders
Thursday	Singing Worship	Music Leader
Friday	Together Time Praise	Headteacher

General Format of Worship throughout the week (these are not set in stone)

Whole School Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Question & Welcome • Call & Response • Introduce theme for the week & develop • Time of Reflection • Prayer & response (might be a song) 	15-20 minutes
Key Stage Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call & Response • Continue theme for the week or 1/2 term & develop • Time of Reflection • Prayer & response (might be a song) 	15-20 minutes

Class Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of theme • Key question to discuss in class related to theme • Time of reflection/activity/use of reflection area • Prayer /prayer activity 	5 – 15 minutes

Content and Approach

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Themes for each half term are chosen and presented in a variety of ways. Key themes include compassion, endurance, trust, forgiveness. Contents include:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity.
- The Big Story - walking through the whole Bible.
- Topical matters from the news or the locality.
- Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity.
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
- Visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school.
- Prayer in different forms - formal, pupils' own, silence and extempore.
- Use of music (this will include music as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school) drama and other.
- Appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.).

Resources

The school budgets money specifically for collective worship to be used annually for resourcing collective worship.

Evaluation and Review

Collective Worship is reviewed in the following ways:

By the Church Distinctiveness Committee using the SIAM self review as a guide and starting point (see SIAM SEF).

Termly reviews by Foundation Governors and children with feedback given to the adults or children leading and taking part.

Collective Worship is also reviewed periodically through pupil voice questionnaires.

Those outside the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.