

"Let Your Light Shine"

To provide an inspirational environment based on Christian values where individuals can excel and flourish academically, socially and emotionally, preparing them for life's journey"

Hook-with-Warsash Church of England Academy

Collective Worship Policy



Signed:

Chair of Governors _____

Headteacher _____

Reviewed: September 2025

Date to be Reviewed: September 2026

Statutory review period: None

Forging Links Committee

Hook-with-Warsash CE Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school. It gives children daily opportunities to explore what our L.I.G.H.T and spoke values mean to them in their own lives; as well as considering how these are important to and are lived out by those of Christian faith. Weekly themes allow children to 'dig more deeply' into the values upheld by our school and to explore these from a Christian perspective. They enable children to talk about, and develop their own ideas, opinions and sense of self; through opportunities to think about social, moral, spiritual and cultural questions that will surface again and again in their lives. Collective worship also encourages children to become responsible citizens who care for the world around them, and are tolerant and understanding of others.

Legal status of collective worship

In a Church of England school, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

The right of withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. The parental right to request that a child be wholly or partly excused from attending Acts of Worship will be respected. Parents who wish to exercise this right should discuss this with the Headteacher. After discussion, if withdrawal is required, any child withdrawn from an Act of Worship will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school.

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Be at a level to enable children and adults to explore their own understanding of God within a Christian framework
- Explain and promote the core Christian values of the setting
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being *invitational, inclusive and inspirational*
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Mark the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions such as the lighting of a candle or use of a cross

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the community setting through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community

Aims of our worship

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring, inclusive and transformative
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values
- To give an opportunity to experience the meaning and significance of faith as revealed in the Bible

- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the community setting at some time
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; festivals and celebrations, our Christian values
- Using a wide range of resources, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external visitors to engage children's interest
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy
- Providing opportunities for children and adults to reflect, contemplate their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers; all prayer will be invitational
- Involving young children and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions
- Being flexible- respond to the unexpected where appropriate (e.g. international events or disasters).
- Through providing a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer as well as times for a joyous environment with singing, music, dance, drama, etc

Central attributes of an act of worship

The setting will endeavour to fulfil the following 'central attributes' of worship:

- Gathering** Making worship a special time of the day.
- Engaging** Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content.
- Responding** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways.
- Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

Collective worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian stories, values and traditions. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, children, representatives from the parish church and members of other Christian denominations.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in an invitational prayer, offered spontaneously by a child or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and setting reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the community setting
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole community setting
- There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship

Planning and Organisation

Planning

Collective worship is planned systematically so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals.

Organisation

Infants and Juniors usually meet separately for collective worship

Monday	Led by the Headteacher- introducing the theme of the week.
Tuesday	Led by the vicar or other representative of the church community (on alternate weeks to Juniors, as available); otherwise by members of the Academy staff
Wednesday	Focus on hymns and songs of praise, led by members of the Academy staff
Thursday	Class based worship exploring the week's theme, led by class teacher or collective worship councillors
Friday	Led by pupils on class rotation basis or by members of the SLT

It is envisaged that approximately four to six times a year (major festivals etc) Collective Worship will take place in St Mary's Church, Warsash.

Resources

The setting has resources available to support collective worship and these are stored in the teacher's work room this includes books and artefacts. Electronic resources can be found on the school network at: *Staff Share(T) Collective Worship*

Communication

The school will communicate with parents our collective worship themes via newsletters and display boards.

Parental Involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship when possible. Parents will be kept informed about the themes of worship at the school through (for example, the collective worship section of the school website)

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly.

At interview all applicants are informed that the setting holds acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation will be that staff will participate in and lead collective worship. The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship.

Sam Parkes is responsible for planning and organising collective worship.

The Governor with responsibility for collective worship is **Rev Mike Terry**.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by governors and key staff. This process supports the school's self-evaluation and staff development and appraisal. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Review

This policy should be reviewed annually.

References to 'parish' refer to the local parish church to which the school is linked.

Reviewed by Committee: October 2025

Ratified by Full Governing Body: October 2025

Date for Review: October 2026

Forging Links Committee