



HILDENBOROUGH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” (Philippians 4:13) so that I can be the best that I can be, for myself, for others and for God.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

May 2024

We aspire for our community to flourish, as we journey together to fulfil our God given potential, by encouraging a delight in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge. We cherish each person as unique and special, and celebrate God’s creation through providing rich experiences, which enlighten, challenge, shape and enhance life’s opportunities for all.

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| Last Reviewed | March 2023 |
| Next Review Date | May 2025 |
| Ratified by | FGB |
| Ratified on | 15.05.2024 |
| Lead Person | Jack Nixon |

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Our Christian Vision and Values

At Hildenborough CE Primary School we focus on Christ’s teachings to shape us as a Church of England School:

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We aspire for our community to flourish as we journey together to fulfil our God given potential by encouraging a delight in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge. We cherish each person as unique and special, and celebrate God’s creation through providing rich experiences, which enlighten, challenge, shape and enhance life’s opportunities for all.

Our values underpin our own building and give us skills for life. Our values are:

- Love:** Jesus teaches us to love one another – even those who you consider to be your enemies
- Courage:** Jesus teaches us to stand up for what is right because God is always there to guide us
- Honesty:** Jesus teaches us to tell the truth and do the right thing
- Hope:** Jesus teaches us to keep going through difficult times and know God keeps His promises
- Endurance:** Jesus teaches us to keep on building on firm foundations
- Compassion:** Jesus teaches us to care lovingly about others and seek justice

Collective Worship at our school – living out our vision

Worship is the ‘heartbeat’ of the school, beating away beneath everything that goes on in school. It supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It signals the life, energy and Christian spirit of the school. It develops the feeling of belonging to a community and is seen as part of the life of the wider Christian community. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school and supports and enables our staff and children to flourish. Our school holds some of its services at our local church.

The school recognises and celebrates the cycle of the Church’s year. The children celebrate the major festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter, also Pentecost and Remembrance and these collective worships are celebrated with parents, Governors and the community of Hildenborough CE Primary School at our local church, St. John’s. Through acts of worship in school, members of the community are asked to speak, in school, on specific themes, sometimes related to charitable organisations.

All children are invited to gather at Collective Worship.

Values and Aims

Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Love. Compassion. Endurance. Courage. Hope. Honesty

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Through our Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within school and the wider community.
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Objectives – an expression of the school’s Christian vision

As a Church of England School, collective worship must be:

- Worship
- Christian
- Denominational

At Hildenborough CE Primary School, we see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- develop their own understanding of worship.
- support the spiritual development of their peers.
- reflect on the way in which human kind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practise, service to God and other people.
- show interest in, and a concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- celebrate special occasions together.
- share appreciation of children’s achievements and projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in our school, religions and society.

Collective Worship pattern

Our Collective Worship pattern may change from time to time. Normally, the following people lead the Acts of Worship. A representative from our church leads Collective Worship within the school on a termly basis.

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| Monday: | RE leader or Church representative (biblically linked) |
| Tuesday: | Class Teachers |
| Wednesday: | Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher |
| Thursday: | Praise Worship |
| Friday: | Headteacher and whole school celebration worship |

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Child Led Worship and Worship Wardens

Children from each class also contribute to our church services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Staff are encouraged to make worship as interactive as possible with children invited to support by reading, acting and sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Worship Wardens: When children reach year 3, they are invited to be a Worship Warden and continue with this responsibility during year 4. They meet weekly with the Collective Worship Leader and help to plan and deliver the Gather, Respond and Send during daily worship. Children are given the option to take on the role of senior Worship Warden in Year 5. These children are given the responsibility of planning, preparing and maintaining the prayer station. They share the theme of the prayer station at the start of each week, which reinforces the messages from worship.

The structure of worship at our school – ensuring it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We follow these principles for all forms of Collective Worship:

GATHER – Meeting each other/playing a part in school community/preparing to meet God

- Music chosen by a different member of staff each week so that children appreciate a range of musical genres. Staff will prepare a slide, which explains why they have chosen this piece of music.
- Worship Wardens set up and ‘open’ Collective Worship by lighting our focal candle, leading the Anglican welcome and response.

ENGAGE – Encountering Jesus and stories of the Bible, listening for God’s message for us. This is then built upon throughout the week by linking biblical teachings with the current day, e.g. local issues, world news, charity events and inspiring people.

- focus Bible passage/theme and sharing the message – drama, reading, Talk Partners, artwork, video clip.
- including questions such as I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community? I wonder why Jesus told this story? I wonder if this story makes you think of a situation in your life? I wonder why Christians might think this story is special?
- song – bring glory to God, offering him praise and worship He deserves for His great love and mercy

RESPOND – encouraging independent thinkers.

- discuss, question, think – e.g. I wonder what you might do differently after hearing the story today? I wonder how you felt after watching that video clip? I wonder what you can do to help/care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend?
- time to be still and reflect – prayer (including Lord’s Prayer, class prayers, individual prayers, school prayer – usually led by the Worship Wardens).

SEND – loving and serving one another and to make a difference/Sent out with God’s blessing

- a thought, verse, prayer or question to enable children to continue their thinking and spur them into action.
- Worship Wardens share a final message

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Any house-keeping messages are shared with the school **before** the gather as they are not considered part of the act of worship.

Themes

Long term plans include themes based upon our Christian values, local, national or international events or the RDBE Collective Worship cycle and resources. This theme opens our week and either continues, or is based on links to local and world events. We encourage courageous advocacy and at the end of each term, children are invited to share in their classes how they can make a difference.

Participation

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of worship is provided for all pupils every day. Adult members of each class and children in school (unless withdrawn by parents, or agreed by the Headteacher) will attend the Act of Worship.

Behaviour

The good behaviour of children entering and leaving the school hall is vital to establishing an atmosphere conducive to worship. All staff has a responsibility to ensure that behaviour is respectful and that, initially, there is silence in the hall whilst awaiting the commencement of the act of worship. Staff choose a song that leads children in and out of worship. Children are asked to listen to this respectfully.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place using monitoring guidelines provided by Rochester Diocese together with the school's own formats for recording 'learning and environment walks'. The children also carry out a weekly review which is then shared with the parents through our Newsletter.

The RE Leader and Headteacher, alongside staff, will formally review this policy every two years, unless any significant changes are made. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos, our Headteacher requests that parents consider this carefully and invites parents to discuss this decision.