



HARTWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for collective worship

Hartwell Primary is a Voluntary Controlled academy and, recognising its historic foundation, works to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. This includes the active promotion of Christian and British values and the respecting of those of other faiths or none.

Date agreed: February 2016

Review date: February 2019

Hartwell Primary School

Policy for Worship

Collective Worship: background.

The 1988 act requires all schools to provide a daily act of worship for all children. This may be a single act for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups. The law also says that worship may be held at any time of day and for different groups of children. For controlled schools the character of collective worship is determined by the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher. The law requires that worship takes into consideration the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all our children.

Worship at Hartwell Primary School

Hartwell is a Church School, at the centre of the village community. Our children are potentially from diverse religious backgrounds. Acts of collective worship take account of this and are appropriate to the needs of all our children. Through a structured programme of assemblies, during the year, we hope to develop in our children:

- a sense of caring and sharing
- a sense of belonging/community
- a sense of awe
- a desire to celebrate and worship
- enthusiasm in learning and enquiring about faith

Towards a Definition of Worship

There is no legal definition of worship and it is a complex term to define.

At Hartwell we believe that worship should incorporate a variety of elements which will:

- promote and heighten sensitivity
- enable a greater understanding of God, self, other people and the world.

These elements should include:

- hymns and prayers
- a time for thinking and reflection
- the development of feelings
- stillness and silence
- ritual
- a celebration and sharing of beliefs, ideals, values and experience
- a celebration of past events and sharing of present experiences

Our Aims

The daily act of collective worship supports the continuing development of our school aims and ethos by:

- reaffirming the Christian ethos of our school
- contributing to the childrens' understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ
- providing our children with the appropriate support to develop their individual thoughts and beliefs
- introducing important stories, prayers and bible stories as elements of Christian belief
- contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children
- providing opportunities for reflection and personal growth
- appreciating that people differ and approaching related issues in a spirit of openness
- preparing for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life

School values

The schools values are at the heart of our Christian ethos and form a central focus in worship. Our values are:

Honesty

Achievement

Respect and responsibility

Trust

Well mannered

Enthusiasm

Listening with kindness and care

Love

As a part of the worship experience our children are encourage to understand how these values are exemplified in the Bible and to talk about how they demonstrate the values in their every day lives.

The Character of our Worship

Worship is of a broadly Christian nature. It includes Christian content, opportunities for the children to learn about beliefs in Christianity, the importance of Jesus in Christianity and listening to and sharing Christian prayers.

Through worship we help pupils to learn about important times in the church year and raise awareness of beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church.

Our programme of worship also includes the children in reflecting and thinking about issues in daily life, and offers opportunities to develop an awareness of and understanding about events and beliefs important in other religions.

The Importance of Worship in Contributing to the Childrens' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We believe that worship is an important time in the daily life of our school. It offers opportunities to foster the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our children.

Spiritual Development

The children's spiritual development is fostered through:

- individual and corporate reflection
- developing thoughts and feelings
- responding openly or in silence
- listening and taking part in prayers and hymns
- developing personal belief
- recognition of a spiritual dimension in life
- considering things of worth

Moral Development

The children's moral development is fostered by encouraging them to give their own reactions to their life experiences. They are actively involved in:-

- stories which illustrate right from wrong
- making decisions about different and increasingly complex situations
- reflecting on real life situations and issues
- understanding the school and community ethos
- contributing to and understanding the need for school rules

Cultural Development

Our worship contributes to the cultural development of our children through:

- celebrating the Christian year
- raising an awareness of other religions
- celebrating major festivals in other faiths e.g. Diwali
- using a wide range of literature, art, artefacts and music
- listening to music which links in with the worship and responding quietly or through discussion

Social Development

Our worship contributes to each child's social development through:

- coming together as a school community
- developing a sense of belonging
- understanding their role and the roles of others within our school community

- showing respect for one another
- listening to the views of others
- identifying others who could benefit from our help (supported charities)
- sharing special occasions with members of the community e.g. the Senior Citizens of Hartwell join our Harvest Thanksgiving each year. {

Equality

Under our Christian ethos we aim to have an identifiable and positive impact on the lives of all who are part of Hartwell School, the users of the services provided and members of the wider community we serve.

We aim to fulfil the spirit, as well as the letter, of the Equality Duty including our programmes for worship.

How we organise our Worship

Worship takes place mainly in the school hall on a daily basis. This includes a combination of whole school, key stage and class assemblies. It is led by the Headteacher on the majority of occasions and by class teachers on the other days.

The Anglican Minister, a representative from the Christian School Assembly Link Team (CSALT) and a Methodist representative lead assembly/worship on a half termly basis.

Themes for assemblies are planned on a termly basis. Over the course of each week specific elements of the theme will be developed by the Head and teachers involved. The termly plans take account of events within the Christian calendar and also reflect significant events in other major faiths.

A planned programme of music is used at the beginning and end of assemblies to promote a thoughtful and calm atmosphere. The collective singing of hymns and other songs forms an integral part of most acts of worship.

The focus for reflection in our assemblies is created in a variety of ways including candle light, displays of objects, photographs etc.

Friday assemblies are a special occasion when the whole school comes together to celebrate the achievements of our children. These assemblies are always ended with the same prayer focussing on the well being of all members of our school community.

Each half term ends with an assembly and act of worship in the village Church. Children are also encouraged to take part in the family services of Harvest festival, Easter and Christmas.

On some occasions there may be an interruption to the weekly schedule/theme due to an experience which may be happening in school or an important event or festival.

The worship files are kept in the Head teacher's office. The Values for Life scheme forms a central part of planning for worship. If the assembly is planned from Values for life the printed plan will be annotated. Otherwise **Appendix 1** is an example of the planning sheet available for use by everyone.

Monitoring worship

Worship is monitored in the following ways:

- HT collects plans for CT led worship
- Progress towards School Development Plan targets is monitored termly by the HT and Foundation governors
- Foundation governors observe assemblies/worship half termly and in line with targets set in the SDP
- Childrens views are sought annually in order to impact on practise

Withdrawal from Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from our school worship. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from acts of worship though not assembly. We respect the rights of all of these parties.