



HEARTS ACADEMY TRUST

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted: February 2018

To be reviewed: February 2021

HEARTS Academy Trust is committed to providing a happy, caring and safe learning environment for all within a values led context, where everyone feels valued and grows in confidence and independence.

We promote **HAPPINESS** through a creative, exciting and practical curriculum, which generates a love of, and interest in, learning and a resilience and hope which supports us through challenging times.

Great value is placed on pupils' self **ESTEEM** which is developed through a positive and motivated attitude to learning, a healthy lifestyle, good social skills, self-discipline and a positive self-image.

We promote the highest standards of **ACHIEVEMENT** in all areas of the curriculum and help all pupils to fulfil their potential regardless of gender, race or ability.

We foster **RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY** for all by establishing good relations between the school, home and community. Pupils are taught respect for themselves, others and the environment. They are also taught to take full responsibility for their own choices and responsibility for themselves and their community.

We encourage **TRUTH** and honesty in all aspects of school life – relationships, work and the curriculum and learn to trust and accept others' individuality and uniqueness.

We develop **SPIRITUALITY and SERVICE** so that calm, quiet, reflective times which support deep thought are part of school life and beauty is appreciated. We promote a service culture that reflects our duty to support and show compassion to all members of the community and not just ourselves.



Children at the HEART

HEARTS Academy Trust
The Wickford Church of England School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

The Wickford Church of England School is committed to providing a happy, caring and safe learning environment for all within a Christian context where children feel valued and grow in confidence and independence.

Collective Worship is at the heart of daily life in our school. It is a time when the school community comes together to reaffirm its Christian ethos and school values, and to reflect on how those values should affect the way we live. It is where children and adults have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. What we experience and reflect in our Collective Worship spreads out from Collective Worship to enrich relationships and enhance all of our school activities. It strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reflecting in particular the Anglican tradition.

Our Values

We embrace the following Christian Values, Happiness, Hope, Esteem, Achievement, Respect, Responsibility, Truth, Spirituality and Service. These all play an integral part in our Collective Worship.

We promote **Happiness** through a creative, exciting and practical curriculum, which generates a love of, and interest in, learning and hope which supports us through challenging times. Collective worship celebrates all that is of value in life including truth, love, goodness, beauty and creativity. It enables children to enjoy worship through drama, story and song.

Great value is placed on pupils' self **Esteem** which is developed through a well-motivated attitude to learning, a healthy lifestyle, good social skills, self-discipline and a positive self-image. In collective worship we reaffirm the value of every individual

We promote the highest standards of **Achievement** in all areas of the curriculum and help all pupils to fulfil their potential regardless of gender, race and ability. In Collective Worship we celebrate the achievements of the school community and of people from different times and cultures.

We foster **Respect** and **Responsibility** for all by establishing good relations between the school, home, church and community. Pupils are taught respect for themselves, others and the environment. They are also taught to take full responsibility for their own choices and responsibility for themselves and their community. In Collective Worship we emphasise the importance of respect for different beliefs and cultures and individual responsibility for actions which affect others.

We encourage **Truth** and honesty in all aspects of school life – relationships, work and the curriculum and learn to trust and accept others' individuality and uniqueness. In Collective Worship we give opportunity for children to reflect honestly on deep questions of life.

We develop **Spirituality** so that calm, quiet, reflective times, including prayer, are part of school life and beauty is appreciated. We promote a service culture that reflects our duty to support and show compassion to all members of the community. Collective Worship is an important time for children to develop their Spirituality. We explore role models of service and self-sacrifice including reflecting on the example of Jesus.

Aims

These aims and objectives are based on the Diocesan guidelines on collective worship and reflect the school's mission statement and values.

Aims of collective worship

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To affirm and strengthen the common values of the school community.
- To provide appropriate experiences that support positive attitudes and foster respect for each other, those in our community and those in the wider world.
- To offer comfort and support in difficult circumstances
- To celebrate and recognise human achievement and all that is good in the school community
- To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- To reflect the teachings of Jesus
- To ensure that those without commitment are given opportunity to approach a threshold of worship, if they wish, without any sense of coercion.
- To deepen spiritual awareness
- To provide appropriate opportunity for reflection on the spiritual dimension of life.
- To reflect the Anglican nature of the school.

Objectives of Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and worship Him
- To help children to develop their ideas about God, about themselves and the world around them.
- To explore Christian beliefs about God and the significance of the Bible
- To engage everyone present in his/her own way, taking into account the ages, backgrounds and abilities of all who are involved.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as children of God
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning.

- To give the school community opportunities for reflection in silence, stillness, contemplation and prayer.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by developing a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- To explore links with classroom activities, the curriculum and school life.
- To explore and respect the beliefs of others, including those of other faiths, celebrating shared values.

Objectives relating specifically to the Anglican Tradition

- To explore the understanding of God as Trinity in age-appropriate ways
- To use Anglican prayers
- To use Anglican sentences and responses
- To encourage links with the worship of the local parish church
- To use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- To hold regular services in church including all the school community
- To welcome clergy to lead worship in school regularly
- To learn and explore important prayers of the church
- To familiarise children with Christian symbols used in worship and around the school as a means of expressing belief and faith
- To hold regular patterns of worship
- To mark key events in the life of the school
- To celebrate the seasons of the church year, planning worship themes around major Christian festivals
- To explore the diversity of practice within the Anglican tradition around the world

The contribution of Collective Worship in supporting the development of SMSC Spiritual Development

- Collective worship helps pupils' spiritual development by giving them opportunities to experience stillness and reflection. It helps them to understand the Christian faith and to explore and share their own beliefs. They learn about the value of prayer and Christian practices of worshipping God.

Moral Development

- Collective worship helps pupils' moral development by exploring and reaffirming common Christian values and teaching respect for other faiths. It gives time to be aware of different life values, while developing a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards.

Social Development

- Collective worship helps pupils' social development by welcoming all pupils and participating in shared worship in a community. Pupils take part in a social gathering in which active listening and participation is the norm and they may have a special responsibility. They learn how to be understanding of the needs of younger children and how to respect and care for one another. Children hear about charity projects to recognise the impact faith can have on serving others.

Cultural Development

- Their cultural development is nurtured by drawing on the Christian heritage, both through the Bible and other key writings and through religious festivals and other practices. They listen to music and experience varied focuses such as pictures, photographs, icons, dance and drama. Music from all over the world is played throughout the year to help them to understand and accept other cultures.

Planning and Implementation

In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. The timing of the daily acts of collective worship at our school is flexible and normally take place as part of the same gathering as assemblies. However, we realise that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and will be treated as such. Staff are encouraged to use lunchtime 'graces' and end of day prayers in their classrooms also. Around the school and grounds there are 'Stillness Spaces', which can be used as a reflection space for the children.

The school values its special links with the clergy and the parish. The school organises and leads services in St Catherine's Church for the festivals of Christmas and Easter and for the Leavers' Service. The children lead own songs, drama, prayers and readings for these services and parents are welcome to attend. The children also make visits to St Catherine's Church as part of their RE curriculum.

Acts of collective worship at the Wickford Church of England School are broadly Christian and planning will take careful note of the children's ages, abilities and needs so that the children experience a collective gathering that provides the framework for thinking and responding and enjoyment. We intend that the times of collective worship will be a pleasant time of active participation by children, staff and any others present, e.g. parents. The clergy team regularly participate in collective worship at school. Teaching staff attend collective worship. Parents are always invited to Friday assembly at which children's work is shared and celebrated. We invite other members of the Christian community into school to lead and share worship.

Weekly Timetable	Focus	Led by
Monday	Whole school assembly	Headteacher
Tuesday	Circle Assembly following a simple Liturgy	Clergy
Wednesday	Whole school assembly	Class teacher or visitor
Thursday	Whole school singing assembly	RE leader
Friday	Whole school Celebration Assembly including parents	Headteacher

Collective worship is planned to include the following activities: -

Gather

- Music and images to establish a quiet reflective atmosphere
- High expectations of calm, respectful behaviour from all participants with children supported sensitively by adults
- Welcome from worship leader
- Sharing simple Christian greetings and responses
- Lighting of the candle

Engage

- Exploring Bible readings and stories through reading, dramatization, visual images and creative stimuli and response
- Exploring themes and values through story, relating to real life experiences, dramatization, visual images, discussion and creative stimuli and responses
- Celebrating and recognising human achievement and all that is good in the school community through sharing of examples of excellence

Respond

- Time to reflect and experience silence.
- Time to be still
- Time to experience various forms of worship.
- Time to celebrate.
- Time to consider things we should be thankful for.
- Time to consider things we should be sorry for.
- Time to consider the needs/troubles of others.
- Time to make connections based on their own experiences

Send

- Blowing out the candle with a reminder that the presence of God remains with us and goes with us as we leave
- Reminder by worship leader that the reflections from the assembly will guide us as we go about our activities during the day
- Sharing simple Christian response such as the Grace
- Quiet music played with expectation set that children leave calmly either in silence or while singing

Assemblies are planned by the RE subject leader, Headteacher and clergy.

The CW leader draws up a termly list of themes which all staff follow. The school has a Worship Committee consisting of the CW leader and a group of children who meet regularly to plan collective worship for church services and special occasions at the school. The CW group meet fortnightly and with the RE lead they review the next fortnightly plan, sharing ideas and selecting the songs. All children (Year 2) take the role of Servers; this group play an active role in the assembly and also the evaluation each half term.

The content of assemblies is adapted to meet the needs of the community at that time, including sharing times of joy and offering comfort and support in difficult circumstances.

The content of our worship is planned to:

- Give regular opportunities to reflect on each of the school's values and relate them to Biblical teaching. This takes place at the start of each year so that our young children can be reminded of the importance of the values, develop their understanding with their increasing maturity and reflect on how they influence our behaviour and relationships
- Observe the cycle of the Church's year i.e. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost
- Observe other special days e.g. Remembrance Day and Mothering Sunday
- Explore the Bible and famous Christian prayers as sources of inspiration
- Give opportunities for children to experience the awe and wonder of Creation
- Explore and respect the unique worth of each individual, relating this to the love of God, the example of Jesus and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- Explore the importance of relationships, relating this to the love of God and the example of Jesus and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- Encounter Christianity as a contemporary, diverse and world-wide tradition, expressed in a variety of traditions and creative Arts
- Explore the lives of people of faith from different traditions and religions and reflect on their values and the impact of their faith on their lives and the lives of others

Holy space and Stillness days

Holy space provides additional opportunities for class based worship. Holy Space is a special part of our spirituality, RE and worship.

At Easter, we give children and adults opportunities to explore themes relating to Holy week in a variety of reflective and creative experiences during a Stillness Day. Music, visual images, symbols and prayer are used to create an atmosphere of quiet reflection. Local clergy and members of St Catherine's church as well as school staff support the children in their reflection and prayer.

Monitoring and evaluation:

Regular monitoring is undertaken by the CW leader, headteacher, Governors, Servers and pupils from the Worship Committee. Pupil views on assemblies from all classes are also gathered in yearly Talk time sessions and half termly pupil voice evaluations (by the Servers). Yearly evaluations allow staff to reflect on success and further improvements.

We use the Chelmsford Diocese Collective Worship Observation Record prompts as useful guidance for everyone monitoring and evaluating collective worship.

This information is used to guide future planning and develop practice further. The CW leader collates all monitoring and reports termly to SLT and governors on findings and actions in response. School self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Inclusion and withdrawals:

Worship is planned and led so that all children have equal opportunity to take part and to benefit from that experience. We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. Worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

Wickford Church of England School is a Church of England school where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in collective worship. Parents, however, do have the right to withdraw their child/children from collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation.

As with R.E., we acknowledge the right of an individual (child/staff) to be withdrawn from acts of worship and be provided with alternative activities. For staff who wish to withdraw this must be put in writing to the head of school.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately, and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In collective worship we follow the school's health and safety policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.