

Hovingham & St Hilda's CE (VC) Primary Schools Federation

Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

Hovingham and St Hilda's Church of England schools are two Federated primary schools in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 4 to 11.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

2. Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in our schools -

- To provide an opportunity for staff and all pupils to meet together each day to worship God, explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To be sensitive to the needs of all children and make the assembly accessible to all.
- To ensure worship is wholly Christian, but materials from other faiths may be included where appropriate.
- To develop a sense of community within the school and celebrate achievements and special occasion.
- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship.
- Where possible collective worship will link to parts of the school curriculum e.g. religious education and PSHCE curriculum.
- To involve children in an active way in the worship.
- In our school worship we aim to reflect the aims of the school, *'Educating the Individual'*
- To provide children with a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them and empathy for others.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the Vision and Values Committee who meet once a term.

3. The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988

Organisation

Collective Worship is based on a programme of assemblies exploring a different Christian Value every half term.

The content of Assemblies takes into account the age and abilities of all children.

Collective Worship has a variety of leaders.

Style and Character

The style of the worship at both Hovingham and St Hilda's CE primary School is ;

- The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- The school has a SACRE determination which allows us to hold a daily act of collective worship which is of an inclusive character drawing inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions.

Interpreting the law for our school

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns.

Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the following arrangements will be made. A member of staff will provide and supervise an alternative activity in the Library.

4. The content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may include the following;

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

A collection of prayers, hymns and psalms may be used.

Special acts of worship linked to the Church of England Christian calendar may be incorporated e.g. Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

Collective Worship will aim to appeal to the children's imagination through a variety of stimuli.

5. Conclusion

Collective Worship is an opportunity to affirm and celebrate Christian values the school believes to be important within the school and the wider community. Within this context our worship seeks also to be sensitive to the varying needs of different cultures and faiths.

