

# Hope Brook Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

### **Learning together and growing together**

**Our God given ethos inspires our atmosphere to nurture, raise aspirations and promote life in its fullness. It gives us the breath to develop respectful, enquiring minds, a spirit of curiosity and resilience. We celebrate the preciousness of each person but water the goodness of working together to bring light into our community.**

Light shining on the wider world, radiating HOPE.

Hope and respect for the future

Opportunities for all

Positive relationships that make a difference

Empowering all with knowledge and wisdom

## HOPE BROOK CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Hope Brook, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in respect and wisdom. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

### Aims

Collective worship in Hope Brook aims to:

- Have an important place in the life of the school.
- Meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.
- Support pupils and adults' in their spiritual growth
- Provide an experience of worship
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- It enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do.
- It encourages thinking differently, and reflecting the behaviour and actions of individuals and communities.
- To lead pupils to become courageous advocates of causes and encourage them to think searchingly about their faith and beliefs

### Organisation

Pupils are involved with planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Through our Collective Worship Squad and through our regular class collective worship.

The whole school attends daily worship in the hall.

The worship space is made special; by use of a worship table and tablecloth.

The atmosphere for worship is created using:

- The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
- Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,
- children seated quietly
- an outdoor area is occasionally used e.g. remembrance garden, the local church
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Worship is usually held at 10-30 a.m. for 15 minutes

## Collective Worship Policy

### Leadership

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Headteacher   |
| Tuesday   | Headteacher   |
| Wednesday | Class teachers  |
| Thursday  | Class led assembly – rotation of classes/worship team once per term |
| Friday    | Celebration assembly – Headteacher                                  |

At specific times of the year, celebrations are held at All Saints Church. Parents, friends and governors share in these services, held at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The local church community also participates in services held at the school, particularly the Remembrance and Leavers services.

The Act of Collective Worship is based around:

1. The Christian Values identified in the 'Values for Life' materials
2. Special events in the Christian calendar
3. Current local, national and international issues
4. Celebration of the pupils' achievements

We regard the act of collective worship as a special time for calm reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere using music, candles and other objects on a table to act as a focal point for the attention of pupils.

Celebration assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. During celebration assemblies, we use a special candle holder which holds 3 candles. A child lights the candles reciting the following – 'We light these candles in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.'

### Planning

The core value at Hope Brook is 'Respect'

Alongside 'respect' the children identified the most important values as:

- friendship, truth, peace, perseverance, trust, hope

The 18 values from the 'Values for Life' material are used over a 3 year cycle:

- Y1 – courage, creativity, forgiveness, justice, peace, trust
- Y2 – compassion, friendship, hope, humility, thankfulness, truthfulness
- Y3 – generosity, perseverance, respect, responsibility, service, wisdom

- The headteacher attends events held by the diocese to aid planning of worship. Our local incumbent discusses worship with the headteacher, RE Co-ordinator and works with the worship squad on planning, leading and delivering high quality worship to the school community.
- The Head Teacher and R.E. Co-Ordinator are available to give advice and support to staff and visitors where the planning and delivery of Collective Worship is concerned.
- The Christian values of the school are displayed, regularly identified by leaders, expressed and celebrated through collective worship

## Collective Worship Policy

- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school such as the story of David and Goliath (Courage), The Storm on the Lake (Trust), Zaccheus, the Taxman (forgiveness)
- We use a variety of materials, including: 'Values for Life', 'Out of the Box Worship', 'Home School Values' and 'Pause for Reflection', websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a candle.
- We allow for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection

### Organisation

#### Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Collective Worship Squad have devised a format for the evaluation of Daily Collective Worship

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during collective worship
- Feedback from pupils (Collective worship comment book and Worship board)
- Children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another
- Completion of Collective Worship record and evaluation
- Observations by Foundation Governors, visitors and the Worship squad

#### Staff Development and Training

The Headteacher attends training led by the Diocese

The R.E. Co-Ordinator attends the SACRE conference every year and other training as appropriate.

#### The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to request a withdrawal will be invited to meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

#### Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy was developed by the R.E. Co-ordinator and teaching staff.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

## Collective Worship Policy

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents / carers
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

Date of policy: March 2022

Date of review: March 2026

This policy was accepted by the Governing Body at their meeting on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March and will be reviewed in 4 years.

A signed copy of this policy is kept in the staffroom Policy Folder.