



Hollinsclough C of E Academy

Collective Worship Policy: 2015

Mission Statement

To encourage high levels of achievement through the enthusiasm and joy of learning, coupled with a creative curriculum and a holistic approach to education that reflects Christian values and supports our community. We guarantee accessibility and availability to all.

Developing potential

Pre-amble

The broad aims of our church academy and the particular the contribution Collective Worship secures and underpins in the Christian Faith is central to the life of our school.

Collective Worship offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character. It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are inclusive, educational, God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.

Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants.

Our approach to Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all members of the school community, valuing and honouring every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.

Our Governing Body in conjunction with our Principal, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the academy is honoured.

Our school development plan has reference to the importance of collective worship

Aims

Within this framework our academy aims to:

- offer a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community that are grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
- seek to make a difference to the lives of all members of the school community by engaging, challenging, encouraging and inspiring in a relevant way
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response
- learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- explore and develop understanding of the Trinitarian nature of Christianity, providing a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- create an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected
- foster a reverential attitude to God and contribute to learners' understanding of Christian theological concepts and beliefs at an appropriate level
- enable learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position he occupies in the Christian faith.
- set the distinctive values for the school in the Christian context
- give a significant place to the Bible relating this to the school's core values and learners' own lives.
- allow learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- allow participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- foster a search for meaning and values in life and of a faith to live by
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways whether prepared beforehand or spontaneous
- enable pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- identify clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship particularly local Anglican practice, including the Eucharist/ Communion at least once during a pupils time at Hollinsclough
- Celebrate / explain the Eucharist / Communion together at least once during a pupil's time at Hollinsclough

- provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey, and in the life of the worshipping community
- choose themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers
- offer regular encounters with a range of leaders from different Christian traditions
- provide a variety of leaders in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community.
- use a variety of settings, timings and environments to enrich worship
- make regular use of local chapel and church buildings for worship
- ensure that worship engages with pupils at the start and provides an appropriate conclusion to explore the Christian value of generosity and practical ways in which this can be expressed, in particular in response to current affairs.
- avoid a confessional approach, use owning language such as ‘Christians believe that...’

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:

- recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- to celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth

Management of Collective Worship

Our Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, our Principal, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the academy.

Our Principal has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school.

A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning. Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative and cohesive, and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.

Records of plans and content are kept centrally. It is the responsibility of our Principal as the collective worship co-ordinator to ensure that these are kept updated.

Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure ongoing relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors’ meetings. The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.

Our Principal / worship co-ordinator keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

Our Principal is aware of the requirements of the section 48 of SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that our academy is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Current Practice

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

The Eucharist is celebrated in the nearby Anglican Church at least once during a pupil's time at Hollinsclough

	Worship Leader	Type of Worship	Description of Content
Monday	Class teacher	Meditation	Providing opportunity for silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, symbols and imagery as vehicles for spiritual growth
Tuesday	Class Teachers	SMSC Assembly (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural)	Spiritual, Moral, Social or Cultural Story/discussion Half-termly House Meetings Reflecting on School Ethos Quiet reflection (leading the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ/their own personal values and belief)
Wednesday	Vicar Principal or pupil / pupils	Christian Worship	Worship Table, with candle and other artefacts Christian Greeting, Hymn Bible story, or similar Prayers. Lord's Prayer, The Grace
Thursday	Class Teachers	Achievement Assembly	Recognition of Individual, house and School Achievements Reflecting on School Ethos Quiet reflection (leading the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ/their own personal values and belief)
Friday	Vicar Principal or pupil / pupils	Christian Worship	Worship Table, with candle and other artefacts Christian Greeting, Hymn Bible story, or similar Prayers. Lord's Prayer, The Grace

Parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship when possible.

The worship programme is never entirely pre-planned. There is always space for the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience.

*In addition the school worships in the local Methodist Chapel for the main Christian celebrations

The Right of Withdrawal

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Implementation of this procedure / policy

Our academy will manage implementation of this procedure / policy with the support and guidance of the Diocese.

General

This procedure / policy and its guidance will always reflect the present and future needs of all stakeholders and to support this we are always open to suggestions for changes and alterations of and to any specific individual provision / requirement to ensure full access to all.

Signed...

Designation: Chair of Governors

Date: May 2016

Signed...

Designation: Headteacher

Date: May 2016

This procedure / policy is to be reviewed by Governors during May 2018

NB: updated September 2015