



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Date adopted by Governors/Academy:

December 2015

Date to be reviewed:

Summer 2018

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

RATIONALE

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, at Henlow Church of England Academy the arrangements for collective worship are the responsibility for the governors after consultation with the Headteacher. The Headteacher is then responsible for ensuring that daily acts of collective worship take place.

It is acknowledged that being involved in an act of collective worship can make a lively and relevant contribution to the personal growth of each individual pupil; aiming to assist in their search for meaning and in the development of their own spiritual and moral values. As collective worship and assembly are not one and the same thing, worship at Henlow Church of England Academy aims to reflect something different and 'special' from ordinary activities.

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AIMS

Through Collective Worship at Henlow Church of England Academy we aim to

- provide a special experience and a sense of occasion, separate from the children's everyday experiences
- celebrate things of worth to the pupils, the school and our community
- provide opportunities to worship God and to maintain a healthy respect for a broadly Christian faith while introducing children to a variety of faiths, showing some children what it is to worship while reaffirming the beliefs of others
- create an atmosphere that promotes thought and reflection and which nurtures the spiritual and moral development of pupils
- provide opportunities for pupils to be involved in presenting, performing in or responding to collective worship
- include a diversity of worship forms including music, meditation, silence, reflection, story-telling, visiting speakers etc. [Return to contents](#)

PURPOSE

Through collective worship we aim to give the pupils the opportunity to

- reflect upon the traditions and beliefs of Christianity and other religions and their relevance to their lives
- explore their own beliefs
- establish a sense of belonging to the school community and its ethos
- develop a sense of community spirit
- understand how to worship
- develop a caring attitude towards themselves and others
- reflect on their own and others' experiences
- consider aesthetic, spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- develop a sense of awe and wonder
- be still, quiet and reflective
- learn more about themselves and the world in which they live [Return to contents](#)

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents are advised of this right in the School Prospectus which is published on the school website. We consider taking part in worship to be an integral and vital part of the school day and would hope to discourage parents from withdrawing their child/children. The school will however provide additional material and supervision if necessary. If parents require their children have alternative Religious Education from a specific religion at these times, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide the appropriate material and teacher e.g A Rabbi or Imam.

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ORGANISATION

Different arrangements for collective worship are evident in each year group. However,

- themes are agreed annually and the Headteacher keeps a record of collective worship themes, these can be found on the school calendar and in the staff briefing
- an overall Values theme has been adopted, with core values on a half termly basis of Honesty, Enthusiasm, Nurture, Love, Originality and Wisdom
- within each core value there are different values on a weekly basis
- themes may change as a quick response to given situations
- each year group meets regularly in the school hall, as a whole year group, led by either the Headteacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Year Leader, Class Tutors or visiting speakers including governors
- collective worship takes place daily in class bases, either as individual classes or amalgamated groups at specific times devoted exclusively to collective worship, during afternoon registration.
- on special occasions, including significant Christian religious festivals, a whole school assembly may take place; this inherently includes collective worship [Return to contents](#)

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Although teachers, including the Headteacher are not required by law to take part in collective worship (as distinct from assembly), teachers and staff at Henlow Church of England Academy are generally willing to participate. As a result, sharing of good practice, including observations and feedback through year team meetings, allows for monitoring and evaluation to take place. In addition, the observation of the pupils' general behaviour in and around the school and to one another should provide evidence of the value and success of collective worship.

It is anticipated that pupils will develop a range of important skills and attitudes including understanding, tolerance, empathy, self-esteem and responsibility. The National Curriculum Council (1991) provide the following learning outcomes for spiritual development

- recognising the existence of others as independent to oneself
- becoming aware of and reflecting upon experience
- questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations
- developing personal views and insights
- applying the insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life

By talking to and observing pupils it is hoped that these outcomes will be evident as success criteria if they have

- improved self-esteem
- good listening skills
- higher order thinking skills
- the ability to ask pertinent questions
- the ability to communicate effectively
- the facility to sustain engagement
- the ability to express sophisticated opinions
- the ability to offer valuable contributions to the collective worship theme
- the ability to offer original thought

In response to monitoring and evaluation, review will take place annually, specifically between the Headteacher and Year Leaders, including the RE Subject Leader. [Return to contents](#)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils, regardless of race, religion or gender are entitled to attend and to participate in the acts of collective worship. Collective worship at Henlow Church of England Academy will aim to take into consideration the ages and abilities as well as the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the children in our school. [Return to contents](#)

AUTHOR AND DATE

S Carrington – November 2015 [Return to contents](#)