

Holly Hill Methodist /Church of England  
(Aided) Infant and Nursery School

**Collective Worship Policy**



**Collective Worship Policy – October 2016**  
**Holly Hill Methodist and Church of England Infant and Nursery School**

As a Christian school our vision is to promote 'Life in All its Fullness.' Our ethos is based on our 12 Christian values of hope, honesty, patience, joy, forgiveness, tolerance, thankfulness, respect, kindness, friendship, gentleness and love. It is within the vision and the ethos that this policy is written and will be implemented.

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the Headteacher, Collective Worship co-ordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

The purpose of the collective worship policy is to:  
clarify the school's perception of collective worship so that members of the school community have a common understanding of its aims.

**Holly Hill Methodist and Church of England Infant and Nursery School** is Voluntary Aided. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Methodist Church and Church of England and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. As this is a Voluntary Aided school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

**Rationale for Collective Worship**

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican and Methodist traditions as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families

with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of *Eid ul fitr*, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

At Holly Hill Methodist and Church of England Infant and Nursery School Collective Worship offers a space to all:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Spiritual   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together</li> <li>• to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them</li> <li>• to rejoice in being unique and precious</li> <li>• to enjoy being in the presence of God</li> <li>• to receive a challenge to live differently</li> <li>• to explore personal belief</li> <li>• to think about God</li> <li>• to listen to God</li> <li>• to make a response to God</li> </ul> |
| Educational | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to learn about the faith of our local church communities</li> <li>• to explore our school's Christian values of hope, honesty, patience, joy, forgiveness, tolerance, thankfulness, respect, kindness, friendship, gentleness and love in their Christian context</li> <li>• to experience stillness and quietness and have a quiet moment at the beginning of a busy day</li> <li>• to participate in marking important features of the church calendar</li> <li>• to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements</li> </ul>                              |

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Inclusive Participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive Participation whatever their age, aptitude or background</li> <li>• Inclusive Participation where the integrity of each is respected</li> <li>• Inclusive Participation enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs</li> <li>• Inclusive Participation by sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------|--|

## The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily usually in the school hall at 9.10 am

It follows the pattern here:

| Day    | Monday         | Tuesday  | Wednesday                       | Thursday        | Friday   |
|--------|----------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Time   | 9.10 -9.30     | 9.10 -9.30   | 9.10 -9.30                      | 9.10 -9.30      | 9.10 -9.30   |
| Group  | Whole school   | Whole school including an open invitation to parents | Whole school                    | Whole school    | Whole school including an open invitation to parents   |
| Style  | Praise worship | Praise worship                                       | Praise worship                  | Sing and Praise | Celebrating the demonstration of our Christian values in the daily life of the school, our gifts and our talents |
| Venue  | Hall           | Hall   | Hall                            | Hall            | Hall   |
| Leader | Senior Leaders | Clergy from local Methodist and Anglican Church      | Teachers and pupils<br>Visitors | Teachers        | Senior Leaders and pupils  |

In addition to daily acts of Collective Worship:

- All Saints Day Service at St Leonard's Church, Frankley.
- A Remembrance Day Service is held in our Prayer Garden.
- Services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter are held in the school hall and parents and carers are invited to attend.

## The planning of Collective Worship

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship based on the Christian values of our school. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

## The content of Collective Worship

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

Stories, Music, Powerpoint, Images, Poetry, Drama, Questioning, Singing, Prayers, Artefacts, Symbols

As we are a Methodist and Anglican school we reflect aspects of Methodist and Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Church year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- Methodist and Anglican prayers and hymns
- Our school prayer is based on the teaching of John Wesley
- Our worship follows a liturgical pattern eg Gathering .. Engaging ...Responding...Sending
- Meditation and silence are used
- Using Anglican sentences and responses (eg The Lord be with you ... and also with you)

### **The management of Collective Worship**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Dawn Gallagher, Deputy Headteacher. We liaise with Rev. Richard Tebbs from St Leonard's church and Rev. Caz Hague from Northfield Methodist Church in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

### **Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship**

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept in a file. Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- There is a termly agenda item for the Spiritual Council
- Governors monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

### **Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Headteacher should be approached.

### **Review date for the policy**