



Horspath C of E School
SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
School Values: Responsibility, Forgiveness, Truth, Respect

Horspath C of E Primary School values and supports all of its members as individuals. It is a happy, welcoming and safe environment which promotes learning and self-confidence.

We are:

A school where children thrive, learning skills and values that will guide them their whole lives.

A church school that underpins teaching, learning and daily school life with the Christian values of forgiveness, respect for others, truth and a sense of accountability.

A school where all children have the best that the school community can give them so that they are challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.

A school that encourages work and play across the age range so that children and staff know everyone in the school community.

A school that is a key member of our local community.

Organisation of Collective Worship.

The Staff and Governors of Horspath Church of England Primary School place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the teaching staff and the local clergy.

This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character

The whole school attends St Giles Church at least once each term to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

The Head Teacher produces a half term plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, bible references and related values, the suggested material to be used, the praise to be included as well as other practical elements such as the introductory music. A sample copy of a Medium term plan is included in appendix a

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	Main feature of worship	Assembly usually led by:
Monday	Values Themed Worship	The Head teacher
Tuesday	Values Related Bible story	Vicar/ Teacher
Wednesday	Hymn Practice	Deputy Headteacher
Thursday	Values Themed worship	Class Assembly
Friday	Family / Awards assembly	Head teacher/SLT

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School.

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children have the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. It is not regarded simply as a time to exchange information or deal with organisational issues.

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for assembly, to reflect on and praise God, to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the old and New Testament. We expect pupils to enjoy collective worship, to engage with enthusiasm during each assembly and to display calmness and reverence in reflection and prayer.

All Staff and pupils currently take part in collective worship, though, of course, each person has the right to withdraw for religious reasons.

The acts of worship start and end with a piece of music, have an interactive story linked to bible passages or a retelling of the bible story itself, whole school hymn singing, the lighting of a candle, a quiet moment for self-reflection and a prayer, either the school prayer, The Lord's Prayer or a prayer specifically linked to the assembly theme.

Each term's assembly themes form part of an interactive display.

Hymn Practice is a whole school hymn singing assembly where old favourites are sung and new hymns are taught. Weekly class assemblies follow the whole school collective worship theme which aims to encourage pupils to use their learning in whole school assembly to apply the values taught in their own lives and decision making. Each Friday there is a celebration assembly to which parents are invited to share in the work the pupils have been doing in school, to celebrate achievement both in and out of school and to reward hard work and good behaviour.

Although in our small school the hall serves as a gym, dining room and an extra teaching area, we preserve the special nature of collective worship by closing the curtains for assembly, playing music as pupils enter and leave the hall, displaying images and maintaining a worship table with a cross, a bible and the school prayer permanently displayed.

Pupils are given the opportunity to write their own prayers for specific events eg Easter service.

Pupils are rewarded for demonstrating the current value in their daily lives through individual, class and whole school reward systems.

Learning Outcomes.

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world.

Equal Opportunities.

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability.

Special Education Needs.

Staff and Governors ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

British Values

At Horspath C of E Primary School the British Values of: Individual Liberty, Rule of Law, Respect & Tolerance and Democracy permeate the curriculum and are reinforced at appropriate opportunities during the school day and the school year.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from the School Council - written or verbal.
- parents' comments.
- observation of children's behaviour.
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Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Appendix A