Hainford
Church of England VC
Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

June 2026

COMPASSION RESPONSIBILITY HOPE

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

All acts of collective worship are in accordance with the founding Church of England Trust deed and the Ethos Statement in the school's Instruments of Government. School collective worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school.
Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our school. It is an inclusive act, which encourages reflection in all present, of all faiths and none, rooted in the Christian understanding of God as Trinity.

Vision

Our vision is to create a school where everyone is encouraged, challenged and given the opportunity to be the best they can be. We are a community of care, built on Christian principles, where children and adults have a sense of belonging, are valued and their individuality is respected.

A place for all to flourish

'I have come, so they may have life, and have it to the full' John 10:10

Our vision and values are embedded in the parable of The Lost Sheep

Inspired by this story, it is our vision that Hainford V.C Primary school will foster the values of **Compassion**, **Hope** and **Responsibility**. We have selected a Bible story to build on a Christian understanding of these values:

Our Story - The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18: 12-14)

The Shepherd cared so much about his large flock (Compassion), that when one disappeared, he did not stop searching (Hope) until the sheep was safe and sound (Responsibility).
We encourage our children to care for everyone and everything, beyond their circles of friends. Every individual matters in our community.

Compassion

The Shepherd cared so much about his large flock , that when one disappeared, he did not stop searching until the sheep was safe and sound.
We encourage our pupils to care for everyone and everything, beyond their circles of friends. We promote reflection and the importance of forgiveness.

Hope

The Shepherd never gave up hope about any of his flock , that when one disappeared, he did not stop searching until the sheep was safe and sound.

We encourage our pupils to have a hopeful attitude. We recognise that from time to time everyone can become lost and make poor choices, but like The Shepherd we will never lose Hope and always be welcomed back.

Responsibility

The Shepherd cared so much about his large flock , that when one disappeared, he did not stop searching until the sheep was safe and sound.
We encourage our pupils to take responsibility for everyone and look after all of God's creation.

Every individual matters in our community – We want all to Flourish.

Introduction

As a Church school we want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Collective worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. We believe that we are all made in the image of God and that worship should form an integral part of our lives.

We believe that at its heart collective worship should provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to learn, reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God.

As a Church of England VC Primary School, we see our collective worship as a central part of school life. Our collective worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act).

Hainford Church of England VC Primary School is a place for all to flourish through child centred education in which all pupils grow into their full potential. The school values of **Responsibility**, **Compassion** and **Hope** are nurtured, developed and celebrated in every aspect of the school's daily life: reading, writing, doing maths, creating, experimenting, playing sport, performing…and , just as important, this embraces caring for one another, taking responsibility for self and the world around them. Tending the school environment, having a quiet moment in the Prayer Space, giving food for the homeless, re-cycling projects, being part of the school Christmas play, or simply being kind and helpful - all are seeds that will blossom in their present and future lives.

The Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, collective worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of collective worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:
We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other passages of scripture. We provide opportunities to discover the value of silence and quiet reflection. We observe the major Christian festivals and celebrations.
In our school, we aim to provide a worship space that is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to space, seating, ambience and music.

Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for collective worship supports this by:

- Recognising that collective worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Ensuring the daily act of collective worship will be distinctly Christian in content and will follow the liturgical calendar
- Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:
    - worship God
    - strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
    - celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
    - consider spiritual and moral issues, reflect on personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
    - respond to the worship offered
    - be introduced to and respond to Christian language, symbolism and major Christian celebrations and experience stillness and quietness
    - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
    - begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
    - encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us, fostering an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
    - enable children to explore their own beliefs.

- Ensuring collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:
    - be inspiring and transformational
    - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
    - develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and focus on our school Christian values
    - include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
    - involve pupils through members of the Worship group opening and closing worship and through pupils writing their own prayer
    - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
    - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
    - take place in the school hall, outdoors, in classrooms or the church
    - respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for collective worship

Content of daily worship

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to follow a three-year rolling programme of Christian themes based on the school's chosen Christian and Life values, supported by the 'Values for Life' scheme of work.

Staff will supplement this scheme with their own or other published materials which uphold the theme and support the aims of the school. Allowances are made for marking festivals, Harvest, etc. or for covering other newsworthy events. The theme for the half term is displayed on in our middle classroom where most collective worship takes place.

An Act of Worship, led by our incumbent is celebrated weekly whilst members of the wider church community enrich children's experiences. All Saints Church is also used at other key times e.g. at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. The children are encouraged to lead prayers and actively participate in collective worship wherever possible.

Collective worship is presented using a variety of styles and includes enthusiastic singing, telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural), drama/mime, dance, poetry, music, multi-media programmes, guest speakers and reflection and reverence in prayer time.

Collective worship covers all the major Christian festivals, is rooted in Biblical teaching, uses the Lord's prayer and other prayers written by pupils.

The collective worship will generally follow the structure below and include a prayer:

- **Gather**
  Coming in to music, lighting of the candle, call and response
- **Engage**
  Story, music, visual aids, drama, puppets, quizzes or activities.
- **Respond**
  Reflection, prayer, discussion, questioning or singing
- **Send**
  Prayer, blowing out of the candle or final thought

Any whole school notices will be given at the end of the act of collective worship.
Singing Assemblies are also used where new hymns and songs are introduced and taught that are carefully linked to the half-term's value.
Collective worship may also take the form of a 'Celebration Assembly'. This is a celebration of the children's work through the week and an opportunity to recognise individual achievements.

Resources for collective worship

These are available from our Values for Life materials, members of the church community and from the Head of School who co-ordinates Collective Worship. We use a wide range of material including the internet, photographs, programme extracts and interactive whiteboards.

Special Services and Visitors

We value our links with the staff and congregation of Hainford All Saints Church. We hold some of our services in church. Our incumbent regularly takes our Tuesday collective worship and supports our whole school worships at Christmas, Easter, Advent and Y6 leavers' service, in the church as well as in the school. Where possible we also invite other members of the community in to lead worship. All visitors are welcome to attend our collective worship.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the head of school. Teachers are generally required to take part in collective worship, and to uphold the Christian ethos upon which it is based. However, at the discretion of the head-teacher and governing board teachers may request permission to withdraw from worship.

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make collective worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of collective worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor and evaluate collective worship by keeping records of collective worship and informally questioning adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. More formally, Governors are invited in to monitor collective worship and record their findings. Feedback is shared and any action points implemented. The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

