

Policy for Collective Worship

Hanbury Church of England First School

Introduction

This policy outlines the aims and objectives for Collective Worship at Hanbury Church of England First School. It provides a clear statement of the school's vision and its approach to collective worship.

At Hanbury C.of E. First School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity for spiritual reflection and prayer. We celebrate all aspects of school life and achievements, both in school and the wider community. It underpins our whole curriculum.

Vision Statement

‘A nurturing environment that promotes inspirational learning’

We are committed to promote a personal balanced education to provide a foundation for the future. By offering a caring and nurturing environment children will be inspired to enjoy and take responsibility for their own learning. We endeavour to be a school that grows in spirit with our children in an ever-changing world.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship at Hanbury C. of E. First School are to:

- understand God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit as a focal point of Christian Worship
- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- include the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- help children develop and understand the nature, language and music of worship.

Statement

As a Church of England School we strive to treat every pupil as unique in the sight of God. This is a fundamental and important part of school life which goes beyond the acquisition of skills and knowledge. We believe it is important that children form their own beliefs and values in our multicultural society within a happy, safe and secure Christian environment.

Our school has a wide catchment area and brings together families of very differing beliefs and backgrounds. The school provides structures within which all can find a place and a commitment.

The spiritual, moral, cultural and social welfare of all our children is important to us as a school. Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching, and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based. However, we exert no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their family faith or lack of faith.

We provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England. We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and teach pupils the Lord's Prayer and other passages of scripture. We discover the value of silence and quiet reflection. Major Christian festivals and celebrations are observed. All acts of worship have a Christian theme, but other faiths, beliefs and cultures are also celebrated so that the children begin to understand the spirituality that exists in all faiths.

Under the Education Reform Act (1988) there must be a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude.

As a church school, collective worship is central to the life and work of the school and is regarded as a very important part of children's education. Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw children from collective worship if they wish to, following a discussion with the Headteacher, and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Daily assemblies are led by staff. Visitors, including clergy and specially invited guests play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship with children taking an active part. Sometimes children lead services.

Each month a group from the local church community come into school to share "Open the Book" which covers stories from the Bible and a time to reflect on what they have learnt. This usually involves the children acting out part of the story. Teachers sometimes use 'Open the Book' themes. Every term we worship in our church.

Staff aim to create a peaceful setting where everyone has the opportunity to sing, pray, and have time for quiet reflection. Singing is an important part of the worship. Music is carefully chosen to create a sense of mood. Candles are often lit to remind the children of the presence of God. A table with candle/s, a wooden cross and a cloth embossed with a cross stands at the front of the School Hall

As a school, we reflect on and evaluate our worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and planning for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures, posters and dvds, all of which we use to create a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

Children also have a special time to reflect at lunchtime, when they say grace and at home time when they say the going home prayer.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Date: _____

Context of Collective worship

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	-	Celebration Assembly
Tuesday	-	Hymn and Singing Assembly
Wednesday	-	Bible including open the Book
Thursday	-	SMSC and Values Assembly
Friday	-	World Faith Celebrations and Bible CREW

