



Hornby St Margaret's C E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

**"Where two or three people gather in my name, I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20**

About our school

Hornby St Margaret's welcomes all children into a loving and caring family. We value individual skills and strengths and celebrate diversity. With Christ at the centre, we support our children to become confident, independent and resilient learners. We prepare our children to be responsible and caring individuals who are ready to go out into the world.

We welcome and support interaction and collaboration between school, home, church and the wider community.

BELONGING, BELIEVING, SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

**'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.'
(John 10:10)**

Our vision is for every individual within our school community to achieve their potential, valuing each person as created in the image of God and therefore of infinite worth. We believe that in belonging we are connected and have a shared belief, ownership and responsibility in the success of ourselves and others.

We aim to inspire children to learn with joy, curiosity and enthusiasm and to aspire for excellence in all they do. We aspire to empower life-long learners

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who are equipped with the moral strength and spiritual depth they need to show love, compassion and advocate to make their world a better place.

We aim to:

- Provide high quality education in a happy Christian environment where everyone is valued and respected.
- Offer an ambitious curriculum which provides rich opportunities for children to develop a variety of knowledge, skills and interests.
- Foster a nurturing and stimulating environment which is inclusive enabling all to flourish socially, academically and spiritually.
- Promote positive relationships with parents, carers, church, governors and the wider community.
- Develop confidence, motivation, independence, resilience and self-esteem.
- Foster an understanding and respect of other cultures, religious beliefs and groups.
- Respect our environment and natural world – God's creation.

Our Christian Values

We encourage our children to 'live fruitfully' by showing the values of '**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.**' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Our Christian values are at the core of everything we do. They shape and underpin the Christian ethos of our school. We aim to achieve our vision by living out these values, which are shared and owned by our whole school community.

Through embedding our vision and values, we endeavour to achieve everyone flourishing together.

What kind of school are we?

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Hornby St Margaret's is a voluntary aided Church of England school within the Diocese of Blackburn. Everything we do is underpinned by our understanding of the teachings of the Christian faith.

We encourage our children to 'live fruitfully' by showing the values of '**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.**' (Galatians 5:22-23)

Our Christian values are at the core of everything we do. They shape and underpin the Christian ethos of our school. Christian values are emphasised and encouraged in all aspects of school life, not just in Religious Education lessons and Collective Worship.

Rationale

At Hornby St Margaret's we believe in valuing each person as created in the image of God and therefore of infinite worth. Collective worship is an essential part of nurturing of each child's spiritual growth.

Legal Requirement for Collective Worship

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship must be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Context

This policy should be read alongside the following:

- Anti-bullying policy

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- Behaviour policy
- British Values policy
- Religious Education policy

Fundamentals

Christian emphasis

- a) In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and Diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

- b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Vision Statement through the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

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c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at other times during the day. Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, personal achievements of pupils and staff, as well as those things which any community would ordinarily celebrate, e.g. the birth of a baby.

d) The Church of England Heritage

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;

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- The cycle of the Church year.

e) Links with local Churches

Use will be made within the provision of the Education Acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church, other Church of England places of worship or other Churches who are members of Churches Together in Britain and Northern Ireland, both for occasional acts of Collective Worship and for religious education. We will regularly visit the local parish church for acts of Collective Worship and the local vicar and/or other Anglican clergy will lead worship regularly in our school.

f) Collective Worship and assembly

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children from assembly do not apply.

g) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

h) The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

i) Worship and Religious Education are kept largely separate.

j) Prayer / Reflective Spaces

In order to deepen the children's experiences of prayer, in conjunction with church and our school vicars, we will offer the experience of Prayer Spaces. Examples of themes include Advent, Epiphany, Easter or Thankfulness and Praise. Different prayer stations focus on a different element of the focus theme.

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There are quiet reflection areas within classrooms/school which encourage the children to think and reflect on our school values and to ask the bigger questions.

Responsibility for the policy

a) This policy was approved by the Governing Body on June 2024. It will be revisited and reviewed regularly. This policy was prepared in consultation with school staff, including the Religious Education Subject Leader, Headteacher, Governors and local clergy.

b) The collective Worship Leader is responsible for the co-ordination of the policy and will work with the Headteacher, local clergy and other staff members to implement it.

Statement of broad aims (GBD)

Collective Worship should be 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring'. It should enable the whole school community to:

- Encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God.
- Ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do.
- Motivate pupils and adults into action.
- Experience the joy of celebrating God's love.

Organisation and Delivery

a) The agreed pattern of worship is as follows:

Day	Time	Form	Led by	Venue
Monday	9:10 am	Whole school worship	Mrs Davison, Headteacher Or	Hall

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			Rev Lucie, Vicar	
Tuesday	9:10 am	Class led worship Or Key Stage worship	Individual classes	Class
Wednesday	9:10 am	Whole school worship	Mrs Davison, Headteacher Or Miss Farrington Deputy Headteacher	Hall
Thursday	10:45 am	Whole school worship: Reflection and Praise		Hall
Friday	3:10 pm	Celebrate and Praise		Hall

b) Acts of Collective Worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes.

c) Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

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d) Parents, family members and governors are warmly welcomed to attend acts of Collective Worship in both school and at Church. Parents and families are particularly encouraged to join our celebration and praise on a Friday afternoon.

e) During Collective Worship, a worshipful atmosphere is to be created and sustained through:

- The use of music when entering and exiting the worship space
- The expectation that the children and adults will move in and out of the worship space in reflective silence
- The expectation of reflective silence and stillness at the beginning and end of Collective Worship
- The setting of the worship table at the beginning of each act of Collective Worship, which include bringing the Bible and the cross, and the lighting of candles.

f) Collective worship will be distinguished from 'assembly' activities, with any necessary notices being given after the prayer has been said.

g) Collective Worship should normally take place on the school premises but may take place in Church on special occasions. This may include:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter
- Leavers Service

h) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc., during acts of Collective Worship. It is expected that all classroom-based staff will attend acts of Collective Worship, with the exception of Practise and Praise

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which is led by staff on a rota basis.

Content and Approaches

a) The range of content to be used will be based on what is recommended by Blackburn Board of Education.

b) Content for Collective Worship will be organised using a fourfold approach consisting of: the observance of the Church Year, the celebration of curriculum work, weekly (or longer) themes, and acts of worship which stand alone.

c) A range of approaches will be used to support Collective Worship including adult and pupil led, story-telling, music and drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids video clips and role play.

Parental Rights to Withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision, and its limitations, are indicated in the school prospectus.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of our school reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or RE (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of our school. Jesus is the centre of our life in school and is therefore at the heart of everything we do.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

The Collective Worship Leader, alongside the Headteacher will be responsible for the planning and co-ordination of Worship. This includes the content of Worship and the contribution of clergy, staff and pupils.

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There will be regular opportunities for staff development and governor training in relation to the provision for Collective Worship. This may be provided through INSET training, CPD at other venues and CPD in school, led by the Headteacher, Worship Co-ordinator or Blackburn Board of Education.

Records of Acts of Worship will be kept electronically in the Worship file on the staff server.

The quality and content of Collective Worship will be monitored by the Worship Leader and the Headteacher.

A nominated school governor will be invited to attend Collective Worship. The provision for Collective Worship will be reported upon at least annually to governors by means of a report from the Worship Leader and from the nominated governor for collective worship.

We will have 'Child Champions' who will be asked to reflect and review the Collective Worship that has been offered.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Related documents

Putting the 'Wow' into Worship! Guidelines for Collective Worship: Blackburn Board of Education

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This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body of the Lune Valley Federation on: June 2024

The scheduled review date of this policy is: June 2027

REVIEW

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).

Version Number	Version description	Date of revision
1	Original	

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