

# HALLATON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Collective Worship (CW) Policy

### Philosophy

Hallaton C.E. Primary School is a Church school in a village community. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together in fellowship. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Hallaton C.E. Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide our students with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and British Values.

### Aims

It is our aim at Hallaton C.E. Primary School that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through considering Christian values.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and contemplation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

### Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or class groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day and maybe in the church or school.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher who liaises with the Religious Education Subject Leader and incumbent to ensure Collective Worship is delivered to a high standard.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school which requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and therefore will be wholly and distinctly Christian in character.

By this we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Hallaton C.E. Primary School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. Distinction is made between these two and pupils understand the need for reverence and reflection during Collective Worship.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Hallaton C.E. Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

Students that are withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship will be supervised however; no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Hallaton C.E. Primary School. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

## **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship as suggested by the LA Diocesan Themes of worship. Those leading worship that week 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. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

In addition a Christian Values Collective Worship will take place to ensure these values are explored and firmly embedded in our day to day life and ethos of Hallaton C.E. Primary School.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship. Worship-planning is monitored by the Collective Worship subject leader. Opportunities to review and evaluate the Collective Worship themes are scheduled into staff meetings if necessary.

Governors have a role monitoring Collective worship at the school and a small committee of governors focus on Collective Worship and Religious Education.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council may seek the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the schools council.

## **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator and class teachers have their own resources that are age appropriate. Information about recent developments and online resources are signposted at Religious Education Subject Leader meetings and through our network of local schools (SLCP).

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