

'Jesus said, "This is my commandment, love one another as I have loved you.'"

Houghton on the Hill

Church of England Primary School



School Policy For	<i>Collective Worship Policy</i>
Date Revised	<i>Autumn 2023</i>
Responsible Committee	<i>Local Governing Body</i>

1. Introduction

1.1. This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision statement and motto above. It supports and reinforces the ethos of Houghton Primary School and is central to the life of the school.

1.2. Collective worship within a Christian context, permeates the whole of the life of our school. This part of the day is when children meet together with staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as quality time and represents something separate from ordinary school routine.

2. Legal Requirements

2.1. The legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and society. All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils.

3. Religious Aspect

3.1. Collective worship:-

- Gives children and the staff the opportunity to enter into religious experiences on a daily basis. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- Fosters a reverential attitude to God.
- Encourages children to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of our existence and about moral and ethical stances.
- Allows us to learn and celebrate Christian values we hold to be important.
- Brings children and staff together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community.
- Offers a source of interesting and thought-provoking ideas for discussion.
- Offers opportunity to express themselves through music, art, literature and drama.
- Makes an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

4. Aims

4.1. The following principles guide the approach to Collective Worship:

- There should be a sense of occasion
- It should provide experiences to develop pupils' spiritual awareness
- It should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school
- It should be educational and contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils
- It should be shaped to meet the needs of the school
- It should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experiences
- It should recognise people from different religious backgrounds or those of no faith
- It should recognise that pupils will experience worship at a variety of levels
- The school recognises that there should be time to reflect on world issues

5. Objectives

- To introduce the pupils to the practice of worship through music, art, poetry, story and prayer
- To create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere conducive to worship
- To encourage a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- To help pupils to experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner calm
- To enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- To raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- To enable pupils to understand Christian teaching, festivals and biblical materials
- To enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to others
- To appreciate we are carers of 'Gods' World
- To enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To help pupils to distinguish right from wrong
- To affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- To celebrate collective and individual achievement
- To develop a sense of community within the school
- To celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship

6. Structure of Worship

At Houghton School, collective worship is varied and delivered by a wide range of worship leaders including school leaders, clergy, teachers and our growing faith leader, as well as visitors.

All worship will always include:

- Prayer and reflection;
- Reference to bible stories and verses;
- Music and/or songs for praise and reflection.

All within worship will be invited to participate and given the opportunity to feel included.

7. Management of collective worship

The Governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the collective worship policy is put into practice
- Reviewing the quality and impact of collective worship
- Engaging with an appropriate inspector to carry out the SIAMS inspection of a church school.

Appendix: Prayers and Responses

At Houghton School, pupils will encounter a wide range of prayers and liturgies. The following are used with more regularity:

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Go in peace the love and serve the Lord; **in the name of Christ, Amen.**

The School Prayer:

**Thank you God for Houghton School,
Thank you for our community,
For the countryside around us
and for everything we enjoy.
Help me to try my best
And to be a good friend,
And please help us all to take good care
of everyone in our school.
*Amen***

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
*Amen***

The Grace:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit be with us,
Forever more, Amen.**