



COLD HARBOUR
C of E Primary School

Growing, Learning, Achieving Together

Collective Worship Policy 2016

	Date	Signature
Discussed at Staff meeting	2 nd November 2016	
Discussed at Curriculum	13 th December 2016	
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Responsibility of Curriculum Committee
Next Review Date: Autumn term 2019

Cold Harbour CE Primary School
Policy Ethos Statement

Ensuring that our children have every opportunity to develop the confidence and capacity to become successful, lifelong learners is a key task for us.

Cold Harbour CE Primary School is a school committed to 'Growing, Learning, Achieving Together' with strong Christian values underpinning this.

- ✓ **Growing** in confidence, faith, personal awareness and ability.
- ✓ **Learning** in creative, fun, technologically assisted and investigative ways.
- ✓ **Achieving** as individuals, teams and as a whole school community across a diverse range of opportunities.
- ✓ **Together** through our shared Christian values of tolerance, faith, guidance, respect and nurture.

This policy will clearly define how the procedures and opportunities in school will enable all children to achieve our key aims.

'Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.'

(John Wesley)

TRUST
HONESTY
THANKFULNESS
RESPECT
TALK
TO MY
GOD
FAITH

Cold Harbour Church of England Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:1-2)

1. Rationale

The 1998 Education Act requires all schools to provide a daily act of worship for all children. This may be a single act for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups. The Act also says that worship may be held at any time of day and for different groups of children. For controlled schools, the governing body in consultation with the Headteacher determines the character of collective worship. The law requires that worship takes into consideration the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all our children.

2. Background

Cold Harbour is an urban school and its purpose is to serve the local community. Although we are a Church of England school, our children come from diverse backgrounds representing differing religious beliefs and practices. We are therefore committed to ensuring that worship opportunities offered to children pay due respect to family beliefs, their age and their interests.

3. Aims and Values

At Cold Harbour C of E Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. We recognise that in our school there may be children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great

care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

We aim to educate all children to develop to their full potential through high expectations and within a Christian environment. As a Christian school, we give everyone the opportunity to acquire the skills, knowledge and confidence to choose their own beliefs and approaches which guide them through life's journey.

We seek to ensure that:

- We celebrate everybody's achievements to nurture confidence.
- We stimulate and encourage learning in a safe environment.
- We recognise talents, strengths and potential in everyone.
- We involve our whole community, especially parents and carers, in ensuring children become well-rounded, confident and happy learners and citizens.
- We live out and demonstrate the Christian values of our spiritual wellbeing hand at all times.
- We develop each child's unique personal and learning attributes.
- We provide outstanding educational experiences for all.

One of the school's main aims is to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children. Within this context we aim to instil respect for religious and moral values of other races, religions and ways of life. We also aim to help children understand the interdependence of individuals, groups, and nations. Through worship and Biblical teaching, we reaffirm the Christian ethos of the school. A full list and summary description of each of our principal Christian values is available in Appendix I.

4. The Character of Collective Worship

In our daily acts of worship we promote our aims by:

- Providing opportunities for reflection and development of individuals' thoughts and beliefs.
- Preparing children for future opportunities and the responsibilities of life.

- Contributing to children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Introducing stories, music and customs from other religions and cultures, relating these to our own belief.
- Contributing to children’s understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and present in our lives as the Holy Spirit.

Our acts of worship are distinctively Christian. Children are given opportunities to learn about Christian beliefs and festivals, the importance of Jesus in Christianity and to listen to and share in Christian prayers. Through collective worship we help them learn about important times in the Church year and raise awareness of beliefs and practices of the Church of England. However, our worship is also about reflecting and thinking about issues in daily life and also developing an awareness of events and beliefs important to other religions.

Children say prayers in their classrooms and teachers build in time for reflection during the school day. Themes covered in worships are often developed further within classes during the week.

Organisation of Worships and Worship

Day	Age Group	Type	Leader
Monday	Whole School	Monthly value	Senior leader
Tuesday	Whole School	Singing Worship	Named leader
Wednesday	Whole School	Monthly value	RE co-ordinator or visitor
Thursday	Classes	Monthly value	Class Teachers
Friday	Whole School	Celebration	Named leader

Visitors from local Christian communities also lead worships three times each half term.

Each KS2 class leads collective worship once in a school year. Parents, governors and the wider community are invited to attend these worships that take place each

half term. These worships follow the Christian value for the month as well as linking to relevant Christian festivals.

We also hold worships and attend services at our local church to celebrate special times in the church calendar. These include Christmas, Harvest and Easter and are often led by a church leader. The children take a full and active role in these and parents are invited to join us for worship at these times.

5. Planning for Worships and Collective Worship

There are ten key Christian values which we assign to the months of the school year. (Appendix I) These form the theme for each act of worship during the month and are relevant to Christian festivals and other events within that period.

Individual worships are planned by the person leading worship that day. All staff and classes are included on a rota to lead an worship at some point during the term. All worships use the same liturgical features as their foundation:

- Singing a Christian hymn or song upon entry.
- Lighting a candle and reflecting upon its Christian meaning. One child says "Jesus is the light of the world." The rest of the school responds with "Shine, Jesus, shine!"
- Shared reading of the school prayer.
- A story or talk relating to the value of the month.
- An opportunity to sing a Christian hymn or song together.
- The chance for prayer and quiet reflection led by the worship leader and UKS2 children.

Children in Years 5 and 6 are responsible for worship duties, including operation of the projector, ensuring that music is played before, during and after worship, and leading prayers within worship. In order to ensure that prayers are relevant to the monthly value and to the children's own spiritual needs, it is important that children are given frequent opportunities to reflect and write their own prayers.

The planned themes for worships may be interrupted by 'happenings' in the school or the world which it is felt are important to address immediately.

6. Celebration Worship

Each Friday morning, we hold a Celebration Worship for the whole school, to which parents and families are invited. This serves as opportunity to value all the achievements of our pupils, be they internal or external accomplishments, academic, creative or sporting. The act of worship is split in to two parts: an initial celebration of children's achievements from outside school, an opportunity to sing together, and a celebration of children's in-school achievements.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Headteacher, RE co-ordinator and governors to monitor individual acts of Collective Worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. Formal monitoring should take place three times per year. Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually. Evaluations are kept in the Collective Worship folder held with the RE Co-ordinator. As part of our pupil voice, the school's Ethos Committee regularly evaluates worships and discusses successes and development areas in the school's worship provision on a fortnightly basis. Class teachers also invite feedback from children on a regular basis. Staff members discuss Collective Worship at staff meetings as necessary, recorded in the minutes of staff meetings.

8. Inviting visitors to lead Collective Worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, they should be informed of:

- Who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section.
- The nature of the school's aims, ethos and policies
- How long they are expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)

- The current worship theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- How children and staff are normally involved in Collective Worship
- What resources or hardware are available to them
- Exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

Visitors should be given significant notice - it should not be assumed that an expert visitor can produce an worship at very short notice. They should be invited to attend an act of Collective Worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, sent a copy of the Collective Worship policy document Some visitors may also need to be told that strong evangelism and inclusive language (“we all believe...”) is not appropriate to a pupil body of diverse faiths and none. Visitors who are regularly involved in Collective Worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school worship programme.

Appendix I – Monthly values with summary description.

September	Nurture	At Cold Harbour, we believe in caring for one another and for all of God's creation. We help each other to grow and meet our full potential.
October	Thankfulness	At Cold Harbour, we believe in giving thanks and praise for all our gifts and talents. We always show gratitude to others when they help us.
November	Respect	At Cold Harbour, we believe in honouring every individual. Everybody has their own unique qualities which deserve respect.
December	Faith	At Cold Harbour, we believe in the Holy Trinity of: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our faith helps us in all we do.
January	Trust	At Cold Harbour, we believe in the goodness in everybody. This helps us to see the best in everybody and show trust.
February/March	Honesty	At Cold Harbour, we believe that to earn trust and respect from other people, we must be honest and open to others and to ourselves.
April	Forgiveness	At Cold Harbour, we believe that God always forgives. We can follow his example by always forgiving those who have done us wrong.
May	Tolerance	At Cold Harbour, we believe that God created us all as equals. We should always try to understand and respect our differences.
June	Guidance	At Cold Harbour, we believe that God guides and helps us in our lives. We always try to help one another, giving comfort and good advice.
July	Achieving Together	At Cold Harbour, we believe that we work best together. We always celebrate each of our successes and all of our gifts from God.