



## HAWKESLEY CHURCH PRIMARY ACADEMY

### Collective Worship Policy

*"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16*

#### Our Mission:

As both a Church of England and a Methodist Church School, our policy for collective worship is set in the context of and gives life to our Christian vision and values. It mirrors the Church of England Education Office guidance for collective worship '**Inclusive, invitational, inspiring 2021**' and embodies Methodist principles throughout.

We believe that every child is made in the image of God and is unique. It is our responsibility to help them find their gifts and the confidence to let their light shine (Matthew 5:16), so that they can become the best version of themselves.

Our aim, through collective worship, is to bring our school and community together to share, learn, reflect and celebrate. Collective worship is the beating heart of the school and is the foundation in which all is built upon. By creating space to learn, reflect and grow (both as a community and as individuals) we hope that the message and guidance shared in collective worship flows through school's corridors, into the classrooms, out onto the playground and the wider school community.

#### Collective Worship at Hawkesley:

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



INVITATIONAL



GLOBAL CHURCH  
COMMUNITY



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION  
FOR ALL



SPARKS OF WISDOM

## **Collective worship and the Church of England**

*'Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration and inspection of worship are all taken seriously by the school and by diocese. We strive to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10. Collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.*

*We aim for collective worship to be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.'* - Inclusive, invitational, inspiring The Church of England education 2021.

### **Inclusive, invitational and inspiring**

As a church school, we work to ensure that everyone in the school family has an enriching experience in collective worship, through the three strands of Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring as set out in the Church of England Education Office guidance for collective worship.

#### **1. Inclusive:**

In our collective worship we meet, explore, question and respond to others and, for some, to God. We seek to ensure that all pupils, their families and other adults encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We recognise that pupils and staff in our schools come from different faith backgrounds, as well as of no faith background. We acknowledge that everyone is at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. We give pupils the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. We take care to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship will invite and welcome meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. We value pupils' own experiences that they bring to worship. In our school, inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. We ensure that collective our school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

#### **2. Invitational:**

We aim for our worship to be consistently invitational. There is no compulsion for pupils to do or say anything that makes them uncomfortable. We provide opportunities for pupils to engage, whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith, to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults are only invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Invitation to prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship. It connects with the theme wherever possible. They are used to enable pupils to explore the sacred, to educate and engage. We strive to choose music to reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community and the spiritual life of our school.

### **3. Inspiring:**

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our school to be inspirational. Worship should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, we aim for pupils and adults to be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. Collective worship will encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

### **Collective Worship and Methodism:**

As both a Church of England and Methodist school, it is important that our approach embodies aspects and guidance from both, throughout our collective worship. At Hawkesley, we consider and include different elements of key Methodist Principles within the development, planning and delivery of collective worship at our school.

Pupils are taught aspects of the Methodist story, its history, the life of John Wesley, traditions and identity, while worship leaders guide them to acknowledge what it means to belong to a wider community of the Methodist Church family.

We '*consider, with deep and frequent attention, the peculiar circumstances in which you stand*' as our schools distinctively Christian ethos, vision and values have been designed with our school's unique context and community background in mind. We believe that this is the driver in which we approach every aspect of our school lives.

Children and adults are encouraged to consider the wider world, paying close attention to injustices, as '*the world is my parish*'. Through Injustice Forums we offered the children regular opportunities to engage in active global and local citizenship, doing '*all the good you can*'. Children lead the school is standing up for an injustice and act to help.

Through the invitational strand of our collective worship, we encourage and celebrate the opportunity to '*let everyone enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself*'. As we understand that all pupils and adults are on a different spiritual and religious journey and are invited to participate and engage with our worship in the manner which suits them best.

Alongside the school's ethos, vision and values, our curriculum's purpose is to develop the children's understanding, personality and gifts bestowed upon them by god in order for them to '*let their light shine*'. We aim for the education that we provide to empower the children to aspire, flourish and achieve within the wider community.

Each half-term, we lead a worship around Hawkesley's links to Methodism. This explores our wider connections to Methodist beliefs and practises. We identify different aspects of Methodism that we particularly experience at Hawkesley, such as: singing the faith, courageous advocacy, Aldersgate day, the school's purpose (serving communities in

need), watching over one another in love, having warm hearts and being inspired by the life and work of John Wesley.

### **Hawkesley's Elements of Collective Worship:**

As a school, we engage with 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring' through our pillars of Collective Worship: invitational, global church community, active participation for all and sparks of wisdom.

#### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**



#### **1. Invitational:**

Our worship is open to all. All of our staff and students are invited to join us for worship daily; this is consistent within our practice. However, there is no compulsion for pupils to do or say anything that makes them uncomfortable. They may engage with the worship offered as much as they would wish to do so. As a church school, we have a distinctively Christian vision and approach to our worship, yet we welcome those of all faiths or no faith to join us. We recognise that each individual will be in a different part of their spiritual journey and that we shape worship to facilitate this. We think carefully and plan ahead the language that we use throughout worship to clarify the invitational nature of worship at Hawkesley.



**INVITATIONAL**

#### **2. A Global Church Community:**

It is important that – although we meet regularly as a Church school in its entirety – that we share our greater connections with the wider church community. Christians are all connected through worship globally and we provide different opportunities for the students to acknowledge and engage with this. Some examples of this are: sharing the current liturgical colour within the Church calendar, engaging with dilemmas and texts from a range of contexts and backgrounds, listening to music from a wide range of genres and ending our collective worships with different Christian structures, groups and practices from around the globe. We hope that this helps our students and staff realise that they are an important part of a greater and diverse Christian community.



**GLOBAL CHURCH  
COMMUNITY**

#### **3. Active Participation for All:**

We aim for our worship to be as accessible as possible, within our context. It is important that when shaping worship, we consider the needs and connections of our school context, community, students and staff. We wish to share the message of Christ in an engaging and accessible manner that we empower those with us to take inspiration, guidance and comfort from the teaching and messages shared. An example of how we may explore and engage within worship can be shared in many different ways, such as: role play, song, storytelling, competitions, games and through active discussion with peers and staff. By shaping our worship to meet the needs and context of our community, we aim to make worship as engaging and accessible as possible.



**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION  
FOR ALL**

#### **4. Sparks of Wisdom:**

At Hawkesley, we believe that every child is made in the image of God and is unique. It is our responsibility to help them find their gifts and the confidence to let their light shine (Matthew 5:16), so that they can become the best version of themselves. Through collective worship, we aim that our children and staff can leave worship with 'Sparks of Wisdom' which will help them to continue to guide them to engage, reflect or learn from the message shared in worship. The 'spark' has been chosen as we believe that collective worship is the powerhouse of the school, which can be a key driver to enabling our students to succeed and to Let Their Light Shine. Each worship includes a 'call to action' so that we can build upon the learning shared.



### **Right to withdraw:**

We acknowledge that there will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools. The Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils, who wish to exercise this option. Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw should contact the headteacher to discuss this.

### **Aims and objectives:**

Collective worship in our Church of England school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as: compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as: resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

### **Provision:**

The rhythm of daily worship in our school allows pupils and adults to step away from the rigour of the classroom, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Our school's collective worship practices provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions and traditions which give our community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. Collective worship is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within our school community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a

community. Throughout the year, we meet to celebrate and mark seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the start and end of the academic year, are marked special services, often in church.

Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life. Worship in our school will follow a recognisable structure that will help focus worship on important themes. We use a welcome or prayer followed by a consideration of a Bible passage or story that we can then reflect on through discussion, prayer, silent reflection or music. It will be something that pupils and adults may want to share and discuss with others in school, in the community and at home. In this way, worship overflows into our lives and choices.

### **A typical week's worship:**

Monday – Living out the Christian Values in the Bible

Tuesday – In class worship, based around school values and ethos.

Wednesday – Exploring the Life of Jesus through the Values

Thursday – Exploring Christian Themes (Half Termly Focus)

Friday – Celebration of Achievements

### **Half-Termly Events:**

Wider Church family lead Collective Worship

Christian Festivals and Celebrations

Methodism at Hawkesley

Bible Role Models

Class-led worships

Spirituality at Hawkesley

### **Developing staff expertise and knowledge:**

Within the context of our resources, we work to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in our school. We strive to ensure that:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through the local diocesan education team.
- Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged, and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate are properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision.

### **Monitoring and evaluation:**

- The governing body ensures robust monitoring of the impact of worship; this monitoring includes and meaningfully involves pupil voice.
- There is a named member of staff responsible for collective worship who ensures that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available. This is Mr Adam Sale.

### **References:**

Church of England vision for education:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/vision-education>

Church of England Education Office guidance on collective worship:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

### **Date of policy:**

November, 2024.

### **Renewal date:**

November, 2026.

### **Appendices:**

These policies should be read in conjunction with our policies for Teaching and Learning, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Spirituality and Religious Education. These policies are available on our website.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**



## **SPIRITUALITY**



## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

