



Horsell C of E (voluntary aided) Junior School

At Horsell C of E Junior School we believe we are all 'made in the image of God'. Through a commitment to Christian values and high academic aspirations, we strive to provide a rich and inclusive education for every member of our school family.

COLLECTIVE WORKSHIP POLICY	
Date adopted:	June 2021
Author/ Owner:	Celia Wand, Headteacher
Approved by:	Quality of Education Committee
Date approved:	September 2023
Due for review:	September 2025

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

‘For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.’ Matthew 18:20

Horsell C of E Junior School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our Collective Worship reflects and reinforces the school’s vision, aims and ethos of us all being ‘made in the image of God’. Our Collective Worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of Dignity, Hope, Justice, Service, Love and Forgiveness.

At Horsell C of E Junior School we consider Collective Worship to be an integral part of the school day. It is an opportunity to reflect and develop the school’s distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our acts of Collective Worship.

We aim for our collective worship to

- a) Be a daily expression of our school’s Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff, parents, and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example, using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.
- h) Provide opportunities for children to experience other faiths, to reflect the diverse nature of the community that we serve, whilst maintaining the distinctive Christian character and ethos of our school.

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;

- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets this requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. As a voluntary aided school, all staff are expected to attend the act of Collective Worship.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers, contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning of Collective Worship

The Leader for Collective Worship and Christian Distinctiveness plans the themes for the term and then creates a detailed half-termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and important events. This is shared on staffshare in the Assemblies folder. It is sent to teachers at the start of every term. All teachers, other than Early Careers Teachers, are expected to lead Acts of Collective Worship.

The person leading the Collective Worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson. A typical act of Collective Worship/assembly should last for 15 minutes.

House Assemblies

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship by running House Assemblies. There is one House Assembly per term for each house. Assembly Ambassadors in Year 6 prepare the Hall for worship every morning, and assist in the running of Collective Worship by leading prayer and reading bible passages.

Play Assemblies

We believe that play is a crucial part of children's development. Play is celebrated and discussed during 'play assemblies' which are led by the teacher with responsibility for play.

Class Assemblies

Each class leads an assembly once a year. This is an opportunity for children to showcase their learning, and give all pupils the opportunity to practise speaking in front of an audience. A class

assembly is NOT intended to take the form of a mini-production. Any music chosen should be appropriate to primary-aged children and should not include singing along to a Youtube channel, or similar.

Class worship

When there is a House Assembly, children from the other houses have an act of Collective Worship in the classroom. This should follow the same overall structure as a whole school act of Collective Worship, which is outlined below.

Themes

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from our six school values of Dignity, Hope, Service, Justice, Love and Forgiveness. We also use the Jigsaw PSHE scheme and include two PSHE assemblies every half term, which are also linked to our school values. In addition, each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included, as well as Diwali, Ramadan, Chinese New Year and other significant events, such as Red Nose Day. British values should also be incorporated.

The Structure of Collective Worship at Horsell C of E Junior School

Equipment:

The following items must be present on the worship table:

The cross

A bible

A candle (with matches or a lighter)

The worship table should be covered in the correct ecclesiastical colours for the time of year. Further information about ecclesiastical colours can be found in the Assemblies folder on staff share and the table covers are located in the Headteacher's Office.

An Act of Collective worship should follow this structure:

1. **Gathering:** The leader gathers the children together by using the three objects on the worship table to illustrate the Trinitarian nature of God ('The Bible represents God's Word, The Cross represents Jesus his Son and the Candle represents the Holy Spirit') The leader, or Assembly Ambassador, should then light the candle. The leader should also point out the colour of the ecclesiastical cloth, if it has changed.
2. **Engaging:** The content of the collective worship can be based around a story, a section of the bible, a video clip, a news item, etc.
3. **Reflection:** All sessions of Collective Worship should have a brief moment of reflection. The leader can use questions for the children to wonder.
(Singing can be added at this point)
4. **Prayer:** an Assembly Ambassador or the leader can lead this. The Lord's Prayer should be used frequently so that children learn it off by heart. Pupils should choose how to respond to prayer. Suitable words might be:
'We are now going to say a prayer. If you would like to make it your prayer, please say Amen at the end. If you do not wish to pray, just listen to the words, and think your own thoughts.'

5. **Sending:** Each session of Collective Worship should end with a 'sending', led by the leader and responded to by the children. The words for this should be displayed on the powerpoint and should follow this format:
Leader: As we leave this place and time to go into the day ahead
All: May we (add in suitable response)

Class assemblies, House assemblies, Play assemblies and Singing assemblies must still contain items, 1, 4, and 5, and should preferably also have a moment of reflection.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our Collective Worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the Collective Worship, other visitors present a whole Collective Worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome the 'Open the Book' Team from St Mary's Church every week.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship.

The Leader for Collective Worship produces an annual subject report, which is submitted to the Quality of Education committee.

Pupils are asked for their feedback about Collective Worship every year via a pupil survey, and the results of these surveys are shared with the Governing body as part of their strategic planning meeting at the end of the academic year. School council also seeks feedback about Collective Worship every term, and this is recorded in the School Council minutes.

Governors with responsibility for Collective Worship are expected to attend Collective Worship at least once a year.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection.

Appendix 1 Organisation of Collective Worship for the academic year 2023 - 2024

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms

The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors. This is the intended pattern for collective worship:

- Monday: Values based assembly, usually led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday: Come and Praise Assembly (singing)/Play assembly (Play project)/Jigsaw Assembly
- Wednesday: Open the Book
- Thursday: House assembly, led by house captains or Values based assembly, usually led by a member of staff (not the headteacher)
- Friday: Class assembly (Parents invited), Celebration assembly or 'Curl up with a Book'

Class assemblies

Each class presents one class assembly in the academic year. We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class assembly.

Festival and celebrations in the church

At Horsell C of E Junior School we celebrate:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Mother's Day
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Ramadan
- Divali
- Hannukah and/or Sukkot
- The Prophet's Birthday

We also observe Advent and Lent. Ecclesiastical colours are used to mark the different events in the church calendar.