

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

High Wych seeks to fulfil the legal requirements for the daily act of collective worship, and to ensure that this time is meaningful and developmental for all. It aims to provide the best quality education possible in a stimulating environment where children feel happy and secure. Christian values such as love, forgiveness and service form the foundation of our ethos creating a caring and tolerant atmosphere for learning where cultural diversity is valued. Worship makes a powerful contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children.

DEFINITION OF WORSHIP

Worship is the offering of ourselves to God, in everything we do, say or think. When we worship together, it is a celebration of our everyday life with God; we will give praise and thanks as one family.

At High Wych acts of worship are mainly of a broadly Christian character. They seek to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief to an extent and in a way which gives them a Christian character, but also has appropriate regard to the family background, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.

Collective worship will take place on the school premises and within the church.

Collective worship should offer pupils opportunities to

- Explore and share beliefs
- Consider and reflect upon the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold differing ones to them
- Feel a sense of mystery of the world

Worship

1. We seek to reflect our school's commitment to nurturing , enriching the spiritual, moral and cultural education of each child through a daily act of worship. Each child's education is affected by the values expressed by each of those individuals who are part of the school community; the focus is the daily act of worship.

2. In the planning and delivery of the whole school worship the various needs of individuals must be recognised. While the school is a community it is not necessarily one which shares the same religious beliefs.

3. The time of worship together should help to reinforce for the children what they have learned through their various activities and observations. It gives them an opportunity to broaden and deepen their relationship with God.

4. The worship will take the form of whole school assemblies or within individual classes. It will be led by the Head, teachers church representatives or children to emphasise the collective nature of the act.

5. The year's worship will be arranged in a series of termly themes that link together.

6. Assembly of children will be orderly and quiet while they listen to music.

7. The role of the coordinator is to provide leadership and guidance to staff in the day to day organisation of whole school worship. The coordinator will consult and

listen to the needs of the pupils and staff through meetings. The arrangements of visits by various individuals and groups will provide broad cultural experiences. The coordinator will provide guidance on the availability and use of resources.

8. Or worship usually takes place in the hall Monday- Thursday and Friday in the church. The rector's assembly starts with the lighting of a candle and is used to mark the beginning of our prayers and quiet reflection time. Other visual aids and Anglican symbols are used including a cloth for the assembly table. Children often help to light the candles and are responsible for organising the music. Friday celebration assembly in the church recognises achievements both inside and outside of school.

9. Special services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter are held in the church and parents are invited to these.

10. We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. Therefore, the time is not over-dominated by school administration or moralising. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship. We follow the Roots and Fruits scheme which encourages class participation based each month on our school values.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Drama
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Visitors

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against the involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils and how the enrichment of pupil's experiences.

Right to withdraw

The school recognises the right of parents to withdraw their children from the act of worship. (See policy). The head teacher may allow those parents who have withdrawn their children to have their own denominational act of faith worship. In any case the head has the responsibility to provide alternative accommodation and supervision for those who have been withdrawn.

(In consultation with the Herts Model Policy)

Reviewed Autumn 2015

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