



Horton St. Michael's CE First School and Nursery

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims

At Horton the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life when we can come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements. The worship in school promotes Christian values which are embedded throughout our school life. Through all of these things we seek to promote our mission statement:

'Learning, laughing and playing together in God's hands'

This mission statement was drawn up by the children of our worship team and it reflects the words of Jesus: 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.' John 15:12

The aim of our collective worship is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on our own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered

Horton Venture Curriculum

Our bespoke Venture Curriculum reflects the Christian values we are promoting throughout our school. We explore what it is like to be ourselves, to be a good friend and to be part of the world's family. These values are discussed throughout school life and reflect the ethos and culture of the school.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirements stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9 (3) which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole

school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be planned to include: themes, resources, prayers, hymns and accompanying music
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils
- include invited guests from Christian or other faiths
- include visits from the school vicar, local vicar/reverend and other religious groups.

Our collective worship is organised as follows:

Bible Focussed Collective worship

This will follow themes set by the Headteacher and will use stories from the bible as inspiration and a starting point for teaching. Prayers are very often led by the children in response to the teaching.

Class Worship

This gives each class the time to discuss values or bible stories in more detail and for there to be a response from the children.

Reflective worship

This happens every half term and is led by our worship team. The children decide on the bible story, choose appropriate songs and music and lead the prayers. This is a quiet reflective service where the children sit in a circle to emphasise the community coming together for quiet worship and reflection.

Songs for Worship

This happens once a week and is a time for children to enjoy worshipping together. Songs are chosen that may reflect the mood and seasons as well as for joy of worship. Children explore the meanings of the songs and the prayers will often reflect the meanings of some of the songs sung.

Celebration Worship

This is when we gather together to celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school. Teachers identify children who have exemplified our Foundation Blocks for Learning, these children are given a special certificate.

Prayer and Reflection

We recognise the need for children to have space to reflect, pray and just be by themselves. We have an outdoor and indoor reflection area. The indoor reflection area often has books, toys and objects which can inspire prayer and reflection. Our outdoor area was designed by the children and is representative of our ethos and values. It is used for quiet times as well as group worship. Our more formal prayers are said or sung before lunch and also at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting other's faiths stand and culture showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil's beliefs. We will explore these faiths in our curriculum time and may present these to the school community at certain times of the year.

Visitors and Visits

We will endeavour to organise visits which allow children first-hand experience and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors are welcomed to the school to share their experiences and knowledge with the children, this includes members from St Michael's church as well as visitors from other local churches. We often welcome parents, relatives and friends to our special services such as harvest, Easter and Christingle,

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The school will also monitor and evaluate the worship themes taught.