

Richard Hill Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed: June 2021

Review Cycle: Annually

Review Date: June 2022

Statement of intent

All publicly funded schools in England are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all their pupils. Houghton School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and these acts of worship will be consistent with the Christian principles on which the school was founded and the traditions of the Church of England.

We recognise that spiritual development is an important part of a child's growth, and that collective worship provides an important contribution towards this, as well as to the pupils' moral, cultural and social development.

The School has close links with our worshipping community in the village of Thurcaston.

The school community includes children from a range of backgrounds. While maintaining a clearly Christian structure to collective worship, pupils are encouraged in their understanding of children of other faith backgrounds, welcoming the celebration of shared values they may bring to collective worship. We aim to provide the opportunity for the reverence of God in our daily act of collective worship, in a way that is inclusive and recognises the variety of faith backgrounds represented in the school.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

The following vision was developed in collaboration with governors in 2020 and this underpins the delivery of our collective worship.



1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- 1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
 - DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'
- 1.3. This policy will be implemented alongside the following school policies:
 - RE Policy

2. Definition of collective worship

- 2.1. For the purpose of this policy, **“collective worship”** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.
- 2.2. To **“take part”** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

3. Aims of collective worship

- 3.1. Collective worship aims to:
 - Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
 - Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
 - Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
 - Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
 - Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
 - Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
 - Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
 - To promote a common ethos, shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

4. Organisation and planning

- 4.1. The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
- 4.2. Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with [section 7](#) of this policy.

- 4.3. Worship will broadly be of a Christian character due to us being a Church of England Primary School/
- 4.4. The executive headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing board.
- 4.5. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily in the school hall.
- 4.6. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.7. The planned collective worships will establish a timetable to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- 4.8. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

5. Weekly collective worship programme

- 5.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Developing Faith Minister, Mike Corner.
Tuesday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Head of School, Sally Applebee
Wednesday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Executive Headteacher, Jan Knox
Thursday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by a class teacher. (This may rotate to a Wednesday for part time staff to be able to deliver worship)
Friday	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered by the head of school or a member of SLT. The Fruits of the Spirit will specifically be recognised as part of this time to encourage and recognise the characteristics we strive towards in our Christian vision.

- 5.2. At least once every term, our Reverend David McDonough will deliver worship in school.
- 5.3. Prayer, hymns and time for reflection will be a regular part of collective worship and participating individuals will recite the Lord's prayer or the school prayer.
- 5.4. Collective worship will address key themes from Understanding Christianity (see appendix 1) such as:
 - God
 - Creation/Fall
 - People of God
 - Incarnation

- Gospel
- Salvation
- Justification
- Redemption
- Sanctification
- Kingdom of God
- Faith, hope and love
- Fruits of the Spirit

5.5. All topics covered will be suitable to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

6. Implementation

- 6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:
- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
 - Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
 - Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
 - Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.
- 6.2. The school will consider pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.
- 6.3. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises.
- 6.4. Inspection of collective worship will be arranged with the following religious authority:
- The appropriate diocesan authority

7. Right to withdraw

- 7.1. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.
- 7.2. Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the executive headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:
- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
 - The practical implications of their withdrawal.
 - Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.
- 7.3. Alternative provision will be arranged for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

7.4. Alternative provision may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

7.5. The alternative provision will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Monitoring and review

8.1. This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Executive Headteacher and the Head of School in agreement with the governing board.

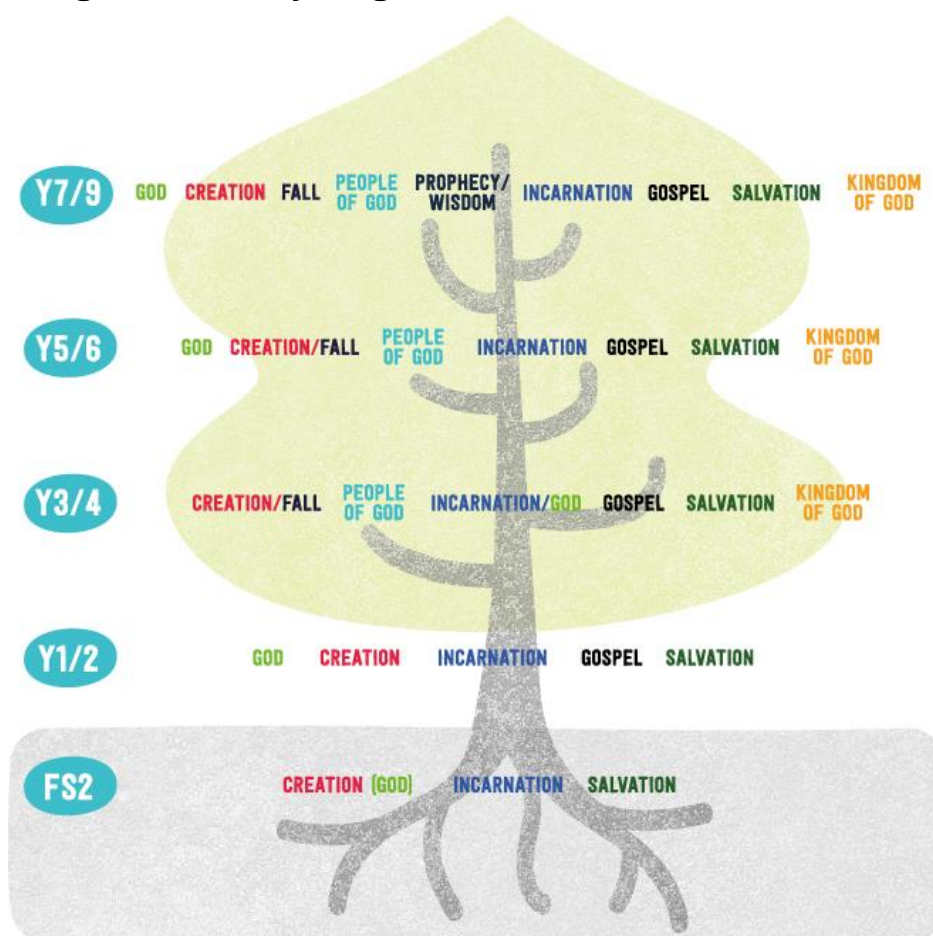
8.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

8.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

8.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is detailed at the start of this policy.

9. Appendices

1. Understanding Christianity 'Big Ideas'



2. Richard Hill School Prayer



Richard Hill School Prayer



Dear God,

Thank you for our school, Richard Hill.

Thank you for the chance to learn.

Please help us to always try our best and
to look after each other.

Help us to follow your example and teach
us to be kind and thoughtful.

Please help us to make wise decisions and
make good use of the life we have.



Amen.

2014



3. School Agreed Lord's prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.
Amen***

4.