



**Educating For 'Life In All Its Fullness'**

**Harewood C of E Primary School**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

Date Approved: Spring 2026

Headteacher: A. Ratcliffe

Chair of Governors: J. Jayne

Date for Review: Spring 2029

# School Ethos and Values

*Educating For 'life In All Its Fullness'*

(John 10:10)

As a school, we work together to support and guide each other to develop a strong sense of our Emotional, Spiritual and Cultural selves through our Christian values:



By embedding these core values, we prepare our whole school community for a full life as active citizens of our world.

## **Safeguarding**

The Governing Body and staff of Harewood C of E Primary School take as our first priority the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure rigorous arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

## **Equal Opportunities**

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils. Our inclusive curriculum will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, including racism and homophobia, and promote understanding, tolerance and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

## **Policy Statement**

At Harewood C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as a central part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our aim of developing all aspects of every child, including their spiritual awareness, so that they can become the confident, rounded individuals they were created to be.

Our acts of collective worship are times where we come together to share our love of God, learn more about faith and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever-growing emotional intelligence, leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The introduction of common values allows children to access moral and ethical thought. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

As a Church of England Primary school, we see our collective worship as an integral and important part of school life. Our collective worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school, which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

### **Aims**

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff. Providing a daily act of worship for all pupils enables them to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on the Christian values of the school
- Learn about and celebrate multi faith festivals
- Reflect upon their own personal values and development
- Develop a community spirit and common ethos of shared values
- Consider moral and spiritual issues
- Respond in a personal way to the worship offered
- Experience stillness, quiet and reflection
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation including praise, seeking forgiveness and quiet reflection
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Develop an understanding of the Christian liturgical calendar

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

- Be inspiring and transformational
- Be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors
- Focus on the school Christian values and ethos and develop the Christian vision of the school
- Include a range of creative opportunities for developing drama and music
- Involve pupils making a contribution to worship by leading on different themes during the week
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- Be respectful of the right of parents to withdraw their child from the collective worship content of the daily worship.

### **Organisation and Content of Daily Worship**

As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow the Christian liturgical calendar and cover all the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost
- Follow a half-termly theme on a 3 year cycle to cover the school Christian values
- Be rooted in biblical teaching

- Use the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer as well as a range of other prayers as appropriate including ones written by the pupils

Collective worship will be presented in a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, and singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time but will include the following stages:

- Gathering
- Engaging
- Responding
- Sending

Worship can take place in the school hall, the classroom or in an outdoor area as appropriate and usually lasts for 15-20 minutes. Special services and celebrations will take longer. There are a range of resources available in school to support the planning of collective worship. A candle is lit and a welcome blessing is said to give a distinctive start to collective worship. Collective worship at Harewood is invitational and children can choose to make the prayers their own by saying Amen at the end. If they choose not to do this is entirely acceptable but they are expected to treat the act of prayer with respect. A time of quiet for reflection is a regular part of our collective worship. The highest standard of behaviour is expected during collective worship from all involved.

Our Celebration Assembly on a Friday, is as much an act of worship as any others through the week. In it we come together before God to celebrate the achievements of the children and reaffirm the value of each member of our school family.

### **Special Services**

Each year the school specifically celebrates key events in the Christian calendar through worship. These include the Harvest Festival, the Christmas Carol Service and the Easter worship. At the end of the school year there is the final assembly, at which we give thanks for the contribution those leaving the school have made.

### **Other Aspects of Worship**

As part of our overall life of worship, each class will say a chosen prayer at the end of each day. Each class will also say a grace before leaving the classroom to go down for lunch. As with prayers during acts of worship, children will be encouraged to participate but will be allowed to choose not to as long as they treat the act of prayer by others with respect.

### **Inclusion of other faiths and those of no faith**

Whilst collective worship is Christian based, we aim to be inclusive of all faiths and those with no faiths. The Christian values that are a central pillar of our worship are very much the values that are held across all faiths and can be shared with everyone.

We also aim to celebrate the cultures and faiths shared by our community. By increasing knowledge and understanding, we also promote a shared understanding and respect for all in the diverse community that we all share.

### **Inclusion and withdrawal**

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right, parents are encouraged to discuss the issue with the Head teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience, but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school and participate in collective worship.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The governing body will review this policy to assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented through the school linked documents - R.E. policy

## Appendix 1

### School Prayer

This is our school  
Let love abide here  
Love for God  
love for mankind  
and love of life itself  
Let us remember  
that as many hands  
build a house  
so many hearts build a school  
Amen

As part of our inclusive welcome, the children sign the school prayer as well as speaking it.

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Lunchtime Grace

For the food we are about to receive,  
may the Lord make us truly thankful  
Amen

### End of the Day Prayer

Lord, keep us safe this night,  
secure from all our fears.  
While angels guard us while we sleep,  
'till morning light appears.  
Amen