

Sir Henry Fermor CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approval Arrangements

All statutory policies in the Trust are ultimately the responsibility of the Trust Board. To enable it to discharge this responsibility appropriately and in collaboration with the constituent schools, the Trust Board will

1. set a full Trust wide policy,
2. set a 'policy principles' document (a framework within which Headteachers develop a full and appropriately customised policy),
3. or delegate to Headteachers or LGBs the power to develop their own policy.

This is a Level 3 Policy against the Trust Governance Plan.

Review Body: LGB

Approved: September 2022 (agreed by Headteacher, COG and Lead Governor via email)

Written by: Rachel Burton

Next review: September 2025

Review Period: 3 years

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our school motto

Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Our motto is rooted in the parable of the lost sheep and the inclusivity of meeting the needs of everyone, in our Christian School community. It is from this ethos that our school vision is formed, and this is shown through Sir Henry Fermor being a deeply and overtly Christian school.

Our Vision

*Sir Henry Fermor enables everyone to succeed; as Jesus teaches through the parable of The Lost Sheep: no one is left behind. **Inspiring** children and adults, **believing** in God at the heart of all we do, through Christ's love and guidance; all in the Sir Henry Fermor family flourish, **achieving** fullness.* Our worship reflects this and guides children to reflect on their own lives and think about their own development, providing them with opportunities to pause and express their ideas.

Objectives – an expression of the school's Christian vision

Our ethos 'The Lost Sheep' is embedded into our collective worship. Our Collective Worship encourages pupils and staff to:

- Understand Christian values and beliefs
- Reflect on how this links to their own faith and beliefs, within their own life and the local community.
- To be empathetic of others and aware of different feelings and opinions.
- Demonstrate belief in being able to create and prepare and deliver collective worship.
- Take risks by having the opportunity to present to an audience
- Show-case a different set of skills like: art, music, drama.
- Promote British values of respect, liberty and law and know why these are important.
- Be proud of their achievements and celebrate together.

Collective Worship at our school – living out our vision

At Sir Henry Fermor worship is an important time, which supports our Christian ethos within our school and brings our community together, every day. Children and staff are immersed in a variety of different worships that delve deeper into our values and Christian spirit. All of our acts of worship are Christian.

Our link Church

As a school we are very fortunate to be a part of a wonderfully supportive community. We visit our local link church, All Saints, on the first Wednesday of every month and at special times of the year, such as: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the academic year. The children are an integral part of these events; each year group has the opportunity to present their class value in church and share their reflections with the whole school, parents, the church congregation and the wider community. We invite members of the team from All Saints church to lead our worship on Monday and Wednesday. We work closely with our vicar and link Church to ensure our worship dedicated to a part of the 'Big Bible Story' on a Monday links to the children's RE learning within Understanding Christianity. Wednesday worships are sung worship when our Music coordinator works closely with All Saints Music Director to provide the children with a variety of more traditional and right up to date sung praise and worship songs. These songs then feed into our church services when the school choir lead the whole school in singing and children from year 5 and 6 are encouraged to come to the front and sing and play as part of a worship band.

Christian Giving

Our worships can also be dedicated to charitable organisations such as: Red Nose Day or Hospices of Hope. This affords the opportunity for outside speakers to enrich our worship experience and for our children to practice giving which is a key Christian principle. Whenever possible, our worship lead will plan these worships to link to our Christian characteristic monthly themes. These sorts of worships can also be led by our Year 6 House Group captains as part of our monthly House Group led worship.

Liturgy

Worships start with a liturgy proclamation and response: 'The Lord is Here' '**His Spirit is With Us**' and with a sacramental lighting of the candle to remind us all that Jesus the light of the world is present by the power of His Holy Spirit. We dismiss in prayer which is led by our head boy and head girl and the children recite by heart our school prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Collective Worship pattern & Structure

The Collective worship at our school aims to be inclusive, invitational, inspiring and rooted in scripture. Our Collective Worship pattern may change from time to time. Normally, the following people lead the Acts of Worship.

Monday: Our Link church leads our worship linked to the 'Big Bible story' and the Understanding Christianity themes being taught in RE lessons throughout the school.

Tuesday: Whole school worships led by class teachers, SLT and occasional visiting speakers on a rota. These are based on Christian festivals and bible stories, global events and special days or events of national significance. These are all linked to our Christian characteristic monthly themes with their carefully chosen scriptures. The focus is always how we can live deeply Christian lives and be more like Jesus, for the common good.

Monthly Themes and Bible verses:

September - Growth Mind-set. I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. Philippians 4:13.

October - Compassion. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32.

November – Courage. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9.

December - Hope. For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11.

January – Creativity. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1.

February - Wisdom. Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

Proverbs 19:20.

March – Forgiveness. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love. Luke 7:47.

April – Respect. So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12.

May – Unity. Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8.

June – Honesty. Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18.

July & August - Curiosity. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. Proverbs 25:2.

Wednesday: Singing worship led by our music lead and All Saints Music Director, as detailed above.

On the first Wednesday of every month we visit our link church - All Saints, where a year group or the church will lead our service.

Thursday: These worships are centred around the 9 Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, as found in Galatians. These worships are led by class teachers on a rota.

One Thursday every month this worship is replaced with House Group worship. This is a wonderful opportunity for the 4 houses to meet ‘vertically’ which incorporates all children from EYFS to year 6 in each house. These worships follow a similar format to the others but are led by the house captains and supervised by house staff. This is an opportunity for team building, Charity fund raising and healthy competition within the House Groups. Other important issues are also discussed, liturgy used and prayers said.

Friday: Celebration worship. Headteacher awards and golden book entries are shared to celebrate children’s learning and achievements in and outside of school, throughout the week. It is also a time for our ‘Fermor merit’ winner, for good conduct, to be selected and to celebrate birthdays that week. This is also a time to celebrate any school team achievements and to announce the ‘Artist of the Month’. During this worship, the new Head boy and Head Girl are chosen for the coming weekend the house captains announce the House point totals.

Our Collective worship follows this pattern:

GATHER – *Meeting each other/playing a part in school community/preparing to meet God*

- Quiet music/video clip playing/central image or quote up

- Pupil worship leaders set up and 'open' Collective Worship by lighting our focal candle, leading with the greeting: 'The Lord is Here'. Children respond: 'His spirit is with us'.

ENGAGE – *Encountering Jesus and stories of the Bible, listening for God's message for us/listening to message linked to the theme/practising relevant hymns.*

- Focus **Bible** passage and sharing the **message** – drama, reading, Talk Partners, artwork, video clip
- Including questions such as: *I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community. I wonder why Jesus told this story. I wonder if this story makes you think of a situation in your life. I wonder why Christians might think this story is special.*

RESPOND – *encouraging independent thinkers/reflection time/discussion time*

- Discuss, question, think – *I wonder what you might **do** differently after hearing the story today? I wonder how you **felt** after watching that video clip. I wonder what you can do to help/care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend.*
- Time to be still and reflect – **prayer** (including Lord's Prayer, class prayers, individual prayers, school prayer)
- Always finish with our school prayer.

SEND – *loving and serving one another and to make a difference/Sent out with God's blessing/hymn*

- A thought, verse, prayer or question to enable children to **continue** their thinking and spur them into action
- Pupil worship leader to put out the candle.
- Sing on departure.

Participation

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of worship is provided for all pupils every day. Adult members of each class and children in school attend the Act of Worship.

Behaviour

The good behaviour of children entering and leaving the school hall is vital to establishing an atmosphere conducive to worship. All staff has a responsibility to ensure that behaviour is good and that the hall is silent. Behaviour during worship is managed through the giving of 'Fermor Merits' and high expectations of good conduct.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place using monitoring guidelines provided by Chichester Diocese together with the school's own formats for recording 'learning and environment walks'.

The Spiritual Development Leader and Head of School, alongside staff, will review this policy every two years. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

Children have the opportunity to reflect on Worship through our Worship display folders. Classes, on rotation contribute to these reflection journals, which are displayed in our School Foyer. In addition, children have the

opportunity to reflect and record their reflections either individually or as a class through their class RE books or via the class thought boxes.

Inclusion and withdrawal

"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes"

As a Church of England school our learning for all our children is deeply and overtly Christian, although, as an inclusive community, we also understand and respect the needs of families from other faith backgrounds. From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. We as a school are obliged to comply with a request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so.

However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in collective worship, understanding that their views and beliefs can form part of our discussions and learning. We encourage anyone wishing to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, to discuss this with the Headteacher before making their decision.

Date of approval by Governing Body:

Signed..... Chair of
Governors

Date due for review of this policy: