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# Horndon-on-the-Hill Church of England Primary School

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## Collective Worship Policy

May 2021

***We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all we do, we find a sense of belonging.***

***1 Corinthians 12:27 - All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.***

***Respect, Honesty, Thoughtfulness, Courage, Responsibility***

Signed-----  
*Chair of Governors*

Date approved-----May 2021

Date to be reviewed-----May 2023

Through a positive caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps.

## Core Principles

- We will provide the opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential.
- We set high expectations for ourselves and each other.
- We will ensure that Christian values are at the heart of our community.
- We take into account the unique qualities of each child and ensure their individual needs are met.
- We will involve parents and carers in the education of their children and encourage their participation in school life.
- We will ensure all children have access to an engaging and exciting curriculum that promotes learning and makes full use of the outdoor environment and our rural setting.

## Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer.
- Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

## Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

## Elements of Worship

The three elements of worship: affirmation, celebration and response are included in our daily acts of worship. Affirmation provides the children with the opportunity to affirm some value of ultimate worth, such as the importance of each person, which for Christians would be expressed in the image of God. The act of celebration is designed to mark what is affirmed through music, drama, reading, dance or acknowledgement of effort or achievement. Response is encouraged either collectively or individually through prayer or silent reflection.

# The Daily Act of Worship

Every week we hold a whole school act of worship, emphasising the unity of the school, and then daily class based acts of worship led by class teachers and tailored more to the specific needs of different age groups. Our local Church of England vicar often leads acts of worship and the children are also encouraged to lead all or part of the worship or may contribute with readings or prayers.

Whole school collective worship is held in the hall, where candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. The Lord's Prayer is recited regularly, along with prayers written by the children. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.

The children also attend services in Church throughout the year including a carol service, Harvest Festival Easter service and Ash Wednesday all led by the local vicar.

## Themes

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers. IsingPop is used across the school and is a resource that is also shared with parents so that they can use this at home with their children.

## Role of the Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

## Appendix

### Liturgical colours

**White:**

From Christmas Day to the Presentation at the Temple (2nd Feb)  
From Easter Day to the eve of Pentecost.

**Red:**

Holy week; Pentecost; All Saint's Day (1st Nov) to the beginning of Advent.

**Purple:**

Advent; Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

**Green:**

From the Presentation (2nd Feb) to Shrove Tuesday; from Pentecost to All Saint's Eve (31st Oct)

In chronological order:

*White:* 25th Dec – 2nd Feb

*Green:* 2nd Feb – Shrove Tuesday

*Purple:* Ash Wednesday – Palm Sunday (Lent)

*Red:* Holy Week

*White:* Easter Day – Pentecost

*Red:* Pentecost

*Green:* Pentecost – 31st Oct

*Red:* 1st November – Advent

*Purple:* Advent – 24th December