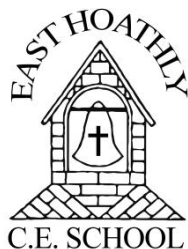


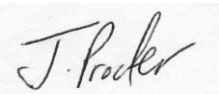


# PIONEER

FEDERATION



## Collective Worship Policy

|  |   |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Review cycle</b>                      | 1/ 2 / 3 years  | <b>Date:</b> November 2024 |
| <b>Approved by</b>                       | J.Procter   |                            |
| <b>Changes made in this review cycle</b> | <b>September 2022<br/>Inclusion of the Collective Worship Cycle</b>                 |                            |
| <b>Linked policies</b>                   | SMSC Policy<br>RE Policy  |                            |
| <b>Signed</b>                            |  | <b>Date:</b> 2024          |
| <b>Position</b>                          | Executive Head  |                            |
| <b>Date of next Review</b>               | November 2026   |                            |

## Introductory Statement

Our School Vision:

The graphic features a background of a church building with a cross on top, silhouettes of birds flying, and a row of children and a dog running in the foreground. The text is centered and includes the school's logo in the top left corner.

**Our Vision**

In our Church school, we learn through our values of Love, Strength, Wisdom and Truth. We aim for the highest standards and believe that by building a strong community, we can take care of everyone's wellbeing, achieving fullness of life.

**"With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26.**

**Love**  
"Let all that you do be done in love."  
1 Corinthians 16:14

**Strength**  
"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

**Wisdom**  
"Let us learn together what is good"  
Job 34:4

**Truth**  
"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
John 8:32

*Achievement For All, Learning Together, Learning For Life*

The Ethos Statement for Church of England Schools:

*Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England/Church in Wales and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils*

East Hoathly School is a voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School. The Church of England therefore retains influence in the life of the school.

Within the context of the faith and practice of the Church of England, our Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the children, thus relating to the day-to-day aspirations and concerns of the school.

It gives all those present time for reflection and prayer, and should be conducted in such a way that the integrity of all those in the group is respected and wellbeing is catered for.

### Legal Requirements and Right of Withdrawal

The school must provide daily Collective Worship for pupils. The worship will take place in the Church and will be wholly Christian in character and in keeping with the school trust deeds. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship, although it is assumed that, as a Church

School, parents have understood and accepted the importance of their children's involvement in this aspect of school life.

## **Aims**

Collective Worship at East Hoathly School is inspiring, invitational and inclusive and aims to:

- enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition
- share the central teachings of the Christian faith in order for the school community to show strength in making an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith', so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and love
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship, developing their own sense of faith and truth
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ's love through worship
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- explore the school's Christian vision and values of Love, Strength, Wisdom and Truth, and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
- encourage love, respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence
- develop a sense of community within the school and locality (e.g. local church/es) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions, developing the wellbeing of all in the school community
- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer, giving a space for development of personal strength
- help children discover their place in the world

## **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

All children at East Hoathly School are supported and encouraged to participate in Collective Worship. It is part of a balanced curriculum which aims for the highest standards and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the pupils, supporting them to achieve fullness of life.

## **Pattern and Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship at East Hoathly currently follows this pattern:

|           |              |                                      |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Whole School | 'His Story'                          |
| Tuesday   | Whole School | Values Worship                       |
| Wednesday | Whole School | Hymn Practice                        |
| Thursday  | Whole School | Visiting Reverends/Spiritual Journal |
| Friday    | Whole School | Celebration Worship - Head of School |

## **Setting the Scene**

The 'Collective Worship' board in the main school corridor is updated to include the theme of worship for the term, resources for Worship, information about the school vision and value.

Collective Worship generally takes place in the church at 10.25am. Children are encouraged to enter the Church quietly (or listen in class if held in the classroom) while music is playing. This reflective period enables those present to begin their own conversation with God and invite Jesus into their worship.

We recognise that worship and assembly may have different purposes and sometimes need to be distinct from one another. Notices, reminders, etc., are given out after the act of worship.

The RE Council regularly ask children to evaluate and reflect on their experience of worship as well as plan forthcoming events and lead worship.

A variety of strategies may be drawn on throughout the year to involve and interest the children, but each act of worship will include:

- Prayer
- Music, including singing and dance
- Stories, drama or other readings from sacred or inspirational literature (all acts of collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character)
- Silence for reflection

## **Planning**

East Hoathly has a shared approach to planning with leaders, local clergy and pupils having the opportunity to contribute. The planning for Collective Worship is laid out in a framework, which reflects the main themes of Christian life and teaching. Worship themes are planned for in the two-year rolling cycle of Christian Values and teachers and church ministers are consulted in the planning and review stages of this. Planning ensures that pupils have opportunities to encounter the teachings of Jesus. The themes also have resonances with the belief and teaching of other faiths from which material can be drawn.

Planning follows the broad pattern of the Christian Year, but it is not restrictive, for there is always a need to respond to local or national/international situations.

## **Resources**

Resources for the Christian Values assembly led by the teacher are largely found through 'Roots and Fruits' as these link directly to our Christian Values and support the school

vision. Additionally, some resources are sought from the 'Big Start Assemblies' and SPCK online resources.

### Visitors

In order to broaden the knowledge and understanding of the pupils and achieve high standards of learning, we invite visitors to lead worship where possible. Fr James is a bi-weekly contributor to Worship and also links with pupils for specific areas of RE learning. Contributions from leaders from other Christian denominations and Christian charities (such as Starfish Malawi and Christian Aid) are welcomed to share Worship with the children whenever possible. Once a week we have visitors from the village sharing bible stories with the school..

### Leadership of collective worship and responsibilities

Collective Worship is led by the Head of School and Senior Teacher. Responsibilities include:

- development of effective and progressive Collective Worship Planning
- organisation and leadership of the RE Council of pupils
- feeding back to Governors through leadership of the Ethos Committee
- Leading on the evaluation of Worship.
- Ensuring the school vision and values of Love, Strength, Wisdom and Truth are promoted and embedded through Worship.

### Monitoring and evaluation of worship

Pupils evaluate the effectiveness of Worship on a regular basis and this information is fed back to leaders.

The Governors hold leaders to account through the Ethos Committee who observe, monitor and review practice and support development going forwards.

### Cycle of Worship

|        | Autumn 1     | Autumn 2             | Spring 1     | Spring 2             | Summer 1   | Summer 2     |
|--------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Year A | Generosity   | Compassion and Peace | Courage      | Forgiveness and Hope | Friendship | Respect      |
| Year B | Thankfulness | Trust and Peace      | Perseverance | Justice and Hope     | Service    | Truthfulness |