



# Hoole St. Michael Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff responsible: J Price

Date approved by the Ethos Committee: March 2024

Date to be reviewed: March 2027

### Vision Statement

*Within God's love, our school seeks to build, in partnership with parents, carers and the Church, a learning community of respect, self-worth and excellence; a community where all are safe and secure to maximise their full potential. A community that is proud of its Christian heritage, yet open and sensitive to the wider world.*

**Bible Verse:** I can do all through Christ who strengthens me. [Philippians 4:13](#)

### Overall Intent of our School

*Achieving excellence within the light of God.*

We encourage our children be **bold** and **courageous** in their learning, willing to **take risks** within a **supportive, caring Christian ethos**. Our **Christian Values** underpin everything we do at Hoole St Michael. Hoole St Michael children develop **confidence, resilience and a thirst for knowledge** to **prepare them for the future**. As a small Christian family, children build **strong relationships**, learn to **work together** and **support** each other through life's celebrations and challenges. **Growth Mindset and Sumo principles** teach our children to approach all areas of learning positively. Our children are **active learners** who thrive when learning outdoors; we provide outdoor learning and Forest School sessions on a weekly basis. Although we are a village school we reach out to develop **meaningful partnerships** within the **local community and wider world**. We provide **enrichment activities** regularly for our children to **broaden their experiences** and love of learning

### Our Collective Worship Mission Statement

At Hoole St Michael CE School, children are encouraged to have first-hand experience of Christian worship and traditions; where they can deepen their own faith and grow in spirituality and come to an understanding of what it means to have God at the centre of their lives.

### Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim is that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- what it means to have faith;

- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of truth, forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- an understanding of the holiness of God;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer, silence and reflection;
- awe and wonder at God's creation;
- moral issues and difficult questions;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

Within Collective Worship, the school aims to demonstrate that worship can be an enjoyable experience shared with the wider school family.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

As Hoole St Michael CE School is a Voluntary Aided school, the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and head teacher. Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school.

Although Collective Worship and RE naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately and Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocation for Religious Education.

Though Collective Worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DCSF regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Collective Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of Religious Education and the National Curriculum and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Collective Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt.

Frequently pupils are involved in leading Collective Worship. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within Collective Worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

Collective Worship is at the heart of daily life in your school and the staff and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' spiritual education.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times

are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Hoole St Michael CE School has very close links with St Michael's CE Church and is in the fortunate position of being closely situated. Hence school services that take place regularly in St Michael's Church are an integral part of our Collective Worship provision.

The rector of the parish, Rev Ann Templeman is actively involved in the delivery of Collective Worship, jointly leading services open to the community alongside staff and pupils from the school.

All school led services held in Church are open to the whole community.

The school is also involved in various services held by the Church that happen outside the school day. Whilst attendance at these events is optional, these do enhance our provision enabling our children to be part of a larger congregation.

### **Organisation and Delivery**

Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school or in classes, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day but is currently time-tabled to take place at the end of the day. For the current year the timetable and form of worship is listed below:

Monday: whole school worship led by the Head teacher  
Tuesday: whole school worship led by the church rector/youth minister  
Wednesday: class worship led by class teacher (Picture News)  
Thursday: whole school SUMO, Prayer and Praise led by the Deputy headteacher  
Friday: there will be elements of worship in our celebration assembly (pm), where we thank God for our talents and gifts. Celebration assembly is open to the whole school community.

In addition to the above timetabled Collective Worship, the school regularly lead services in Church. This will happen at least twice a term. Such events will include recognition of key dates in the Church's Year to mark events such as:

- Holy Week
- All Saints
- Ash Wednesday
- Harvest
- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ascension Day

At these Church services, there will be significant input by the children, giving opportunities for them to share their thoughts and reflections with the wider community.

At times, invited guests from different organisations may lead or support Collective Worship in school.

Prior to the commencement of Collective Worship, music is played so the children adopt a quiet, reflective demeanour in preparation for worship.

During Collective Worship, a table is placed in a central and prominent place with Christian symbols and lighted candles. At the end of Collective Worship the candles are extinguished to signal the end of the act of worship.

### **Content and Approaches**

The school follows the Blackburn Diocese 'Roots and Fruits' programme. This programme is supplemented on occasion by additional material appropriate to the particular Church seasons. Other resources used include 'The Storyteller Bible', 'The Lion Bible for children', 'Tales of Grace' and 'The Jesus Storyteller Bible'.

A varied range of approaches may be used, e.g. adult and pupil led, storytelling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc. according to resources available appropriate to the age and number of children concerned.

Children will not be withdrawn from the worshipping life of the school for curriculum related activities.

### **Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the content and quality of Collective Worship. She will be supported by the rector/Chair of Governors. It is expected that other key members of staff and children will also contribute to content and delivery of the Collective Worship planned programme.

Training to enable the Collective Worship Coordinator to fulfil her role is seen as important and as such the coordinator will be given access to training from the Diocese and other relevant sources. Where appropriate, training opportunities will also be made available for staff and governors.

Records of Collective Worship will be retained by the Collective Worship Coordinator. She will also be responsible for the evaluation of school worship.

The Rector/Chair of Governors will report on the quality of Collective Worship to the Governing Body at least once a year.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

The Ethos Committee meet each term to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship. 3C's evaluate worship 3 times a week.

### **Resources**

Collective Worship resources will be reviewed annually and a suitable budget will be set aside to enable these resources to be updated and added to as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the Collective Worship Coordinator to assess and review the maintenance and suitability of these resources.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus.

*'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England / Methodist Foundation.*

*This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England / Methodist ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.'*

*Blackburn Diocese Syllabus*

***"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven." Matthew 5v14-16***

Signed: *Liz Boland* Date: 17/3/24 (Chair of ETHOS)

Signed: *Juliet Price* Date: 17/3/24 (Headteacher)