

# Forty Hill CE School

## Collective Worship Policy



### Our Vision

that our safe and welcoming Christian community gives every child every opportunity to be **fulfilled**, **healthy** and **successful**.



### Our Values

to develop **confidence**,  
**respect** and **determination**,  
create **friendships**,  
learn **forgiveness**,  
and share in **celebration**



**Fulfilled Healthy Successful**

### Introduction

Inspired by our Vision and Values, rooted in biblical teaching and created by all stakeholders in our school community, Forty Hill Church of England Primary School aims to honour God in all we do; we aim to be a place where all children are valued and nurtured, and feel **Fulfilled**, **Healthy** and **Successful** in everything that they do.

Through daily Collective Worship, we encourage children to know God and Jesus through the Bible and to reflect on how this makes them feel and the impact it has on their lives. Assemblies prepare our children to live their lives with Christian values both in school and in the wider community, and in their lives beyond the family of Forty Hill.

We aspire to live our values through:

- **Confidence** – *The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17*
- **Respect** – *Respect everyone, love other believers, honour God, and respect the Emperor. Peter 2:17*
- **Determination** – *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24*
- **Friendship** – *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15*
- **Forgiveness** – *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14*
- **Celebration** – *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12:15*  
*Rejoice always, pray continually, 1 Thessalonians 5:15-17*

In the implementation of this policy, the governors wish to stress the importance they place on pupils, teachers, parents and governors sharing together in Worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values.

A central feature in the purpose of Collective Worship in the school is the opportunities it gives to pupils to reflect, individually and collectively, on spiritual issues and to extend their capacity to appreciate, understand and wonder at some of the fundamental aspects of Christian life and some of the extraordinary features of God's wonderful world.

### Aims

Worship is essential to the life of our school and plays an important part in the fulfilling of our role as a Church of England school. Through Collective Worship, the school aims to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- develop a knowledge of Christianity, its stories, traditions, festivals, Worship and teachings

- learn about the life of Jesus and experience the essential features of Anglican prayer, Worship and values
- develop children's feelings of awe, wonder, mystery, delight and joy in God's creation, including the natural world
- explore and explain with examples how we 'live out' our school vision and values
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and in the wider community
- consider the importance of prayer, including opportunities for short reflection and silence; a time to talk to God
- make appropriate use of music, both sacred and secular
- help children to respond to challenging experiences, to develop a moral sense, and to respond to moral issues
- help children to explore beliefs, and understand other religions, especially those represented in school, and to respect people holding those beliefs
- provide the opportunity to celebrate achievements and special occasions

### **Objectives**

Children will be encouraged to:

- understand the part they can play in Acts of Collective Worship
- show interest in, and concern for, other members of the school community
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- celebrate special occasions together
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards apparent in different religions and in society
- reflect on the way in which human kind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and to other people.

### **Themes of Collective Worship at Forty Hill**

We believe that through our Worship, children should be able to articulate answers to these three key questions: Who is Jesus Christ? What is the Church? What does it mean to be a Christian today? They may formulate these answers from within the Christian faith, or from the perspective of another faith or no faith.

The Bible is used to inform and direct our Collective Worship. Through careful planning, children are introduced to a range of stories from the New Testament and Old Testament. Age appropriate bibles are used to enrich stories within the classroom as well as through Worship.

Themes are selected as a focus for school assemblies, based on the chosen Christian values, and are linked together through the term. The themes may also include major events and festivals in the church year, stories from the Bible and from other religious faiths, topics from the curriculum, known national and international events and aspects from the school calendar. Teachers may choose from a range of methods to approach Worship. These include:

- using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in Worship
- identified prayers and traditional responses, hymns and psalms
- observing the cycle of the Anglican year
- meditation and silence
- secular stories and readings
- pupils' contributions
- music, dance and drama
- natural materials and artefacts
- visual aids and works of art
- visitors

### **Worship in Church and in School**

Collective Worship takes place every day. The programme for Worship for each week is as follows (occasionally subject to change):

**Monday 10.30am** – whole school Act of Worship based on our Christian Values led by Senior Management

**Tuesday 10.30am** – whole school Act of Worship based on a major festival, story from the bible, a visitor or topic from the curriculum, in class Worship, phase Acts of Worship or celebratory/competition launches

or

**Tuesday 9.05am** – a class Act of Worship led by a class where parents are invited to join us

**Wednesday 10.30am** – whole school / split Acts of Worship in phases led by the Vicar or Clergy from Jesus Church

**Thursday 10.30am** - music/singing/hymn practice session in the hall including prayers for festivals or linked to the theme of the week

**Friday 10.30am** – whole school Act of Worship including our achievement/celebration assembly

Our Acts of Worship and assemblies provide an opportunity for all children, staff and visitors, to take time to reflect on God's Word, His love and importance in our life. We encourage the children to be actively involved by asking questions to challenge their understanding as well as developing the children to be critical thinkers. We also support the children to use what they have heard and learnt during Collective Worship in their day-to-day lives.

Class led Acts of Worship will provide a link with RE teaching within the classroom as well as other subjects.

Forty Hill enjoys a strong partnership with Jesus Church. Eight times a year, we Worship in our church: for the Welcome Service, for Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and Pentecost. At the end of the school year, the Leavers' Service sends all pupils on their way with a blessing for the future. Parents, neighbours, family and friends are invited to join the children in their Worship on these occasions and the church is usually full.

Visiting the Church is also an important part of the curriculum; it is always open to Forty Hill pupils.

### Notes for Guidance

- All Collective Acts of Worship are 20 minutes long
- The aims of hymn practice sessions are to increase the repertoire of children's singing, to follow up songs and hymns which have arisen elsewhere and to practise and prepare for forthcoming assemblies, church services or festivals.
- Hymn practice always contains a moment of reflection and prayer in accordance with Collective Act of Worship
- Class assemblies will normally last no more than 20 minutes. They are not performances or productions but may frequently be show-and-tell sessions where children share with others work that they have recently been doing in their class.
- Achievement Assemblies give time for work, behaviour and effort to be celebrated as well as outside achievements (such as sporting or musical) with the whole school. Each class awards certificates for 'Star of the Week', 'Achievement' and the 'Value' of half term. In addition, a 'Star Class' certificate and trophy is awarded and the House Points Trophy is given to the house with the most points. Attendance Alfred is awarded to the class with the best attendance. The certificate winners lead the whole school in prayer at the end of the assembly
- The Wednesday assembly is one of our important links with Jesus Church. The Vicar collaborates with the school to set the theme for the half term ahead to incorporate our school values and integrate Bible study for the older children.
- All staff attend Acts of Worship unless on duty at break time. All teachers will lead assembly according to the weekly theme at some point during the term
- Records of all Acts of Worship are held in school and are available for inspection by parents and Governors on request

### What is a Typical Act of Worship like at Forty Hill?

As Collective Worship is an essential part of the school day, children are expected to enter and leave the Hall in preparation for quiet reflection. The children often enter to music chosen to support the theme; it may be modern, secular or traditional.

The leader teaches interactively about the theme; this may include drama or film clips or children's work as well as a presentation slide.

There is always time for reflection and prayer. We encourage the children to join us in leading prayers. Hymns are usually sung before or after the prayer as appropriate. Notices are given to the children about events, clubs etc.

Teachers may choose to follow up the themes and messages of the daily Worship in class, especially when supporting the spiritual, moral and social growth of their pupils and will show this reflection in their RE or PSHE floor book.

Year 5 and 6 monitors prepare the hall with chairs for staff and benches for Year 6. They also set up the music for the assembly. At the end, they clear away, leaving the hall ready for lessons or dining.

Opportunities are made for the use of ICT in Collective Worship. Teachers are encouraged to use a range of resources, in particular audio visual aids, to develop and enhance the theme of the assembly.

### **Prayer**

At Forty Hill, we believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It should be communal or individual and at its heart it is communication between a worshipper and God. Children are encouraged to write prayers and lead prayers in our Church Acts of Worship and often during daily Acts of Worship in school. When a class leads an Act of Worship, the children write a prayer which celebrates their learning for the term.

Morning, Lunchtime and Hometime prayers are said in class daily. The children are also encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer throughout the week, and always at the end of the Achievement Assembly as well as writing their own prayers in the class prayer book and for homework.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

As part of our distinctive Christian ethos, we value the school coming together for Collective Worship each day. It is an important part of life at Forty Hill. It is the view of the governors that having chosen a Church of England school for their children, parents at Forty Hill have accepted its faith and teaching, although they retain the statutory right of withdrawal of their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship. Parents also commit themselves and their children to supporting the school in all its activities, including Church services. For this reason the governors expect that very few, if any, parents will exercise this option under the law.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of Worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such Worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the Collective Worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Teachers who work at the school have accepted - on appointment - their duty individually and collectively to promote and to lead in Religious Education and Collective Worship at the school, although their own faiths and levels of conviction will undoubtedly vary.

### **Inclusion**

All children attend Collective Acts of Worship and have the opportunity to pray during a time of reflection. We recognise that at Forty Hill there are children from different faiths who pray alongside each other. Characteristically, our spoken prayers begin with an address to Our Heavenly Father.

Appropriate provision is made for teaching staff who are not Christian to support the school's Christian message during Collective Worship and class assemblies.

Provision is made for those pupils with SEN/disabilities to participate in the Collective Worship of the school by:

- providing adapted or modified seating arrangements
- providing support from adults when needed.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy is reviewed regularly by the headteacher and the school's Collective Worship Team (SMT and the Vicar of Jesus Church) and ratified every two years by the Governing Body.

Accepted by the Governing Body: March 2018

Review Date: March 2020