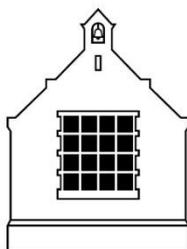


**'We are a community of caring, connected,
creative, 'can-do' learners'**



Horrington Primary School Policy document			
Collective Worship Policy			
Version date	October 2020	Review date	October 2022
Date ratified by Governing Body	21.10.20	Signed (Chair of Governors)	<i>J Eyre</i>

Philosophy

Horrington Primary School is a Community school. Collective Worship is highly valued as it gives us the opportunity to come together and develop the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth. The Collective Worship Policy of Horrington Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus and it reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school.

Definition

At Horrington Primary school, Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring "collective" not "corporate" worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Aims

It is our aim to provide a caring and supporting environment so that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child by addressing a wide variety of themes and topics, using diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community and to develop a community spirit.
- Provide members of the school community opportunities to explore their own beliefs and develop their own spirituality.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school opportunities to reflect on the direction of their own lives.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer, reflection and stillness.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation, seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

Acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. In this school we define 'broadly Christian' to mean:

Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Horrington Primary school our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are expected to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal. Withdrawal will only then be made following written confirmation by the parents/carers. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

Organisation

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or class groups in either the school hall or classrooms. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Acts of worship occur daily, including a weekly singing assembly.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher (after consulting with the governing body), who may delegate this to other members of staff if/when necessary. Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning, Leadership, Recording and Evaluation

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied to maintain pupil engagement, participation and to evoke a response in the individual. Opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets, these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Horrington Primary School.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process; the schools council may choose to seek the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the relevant staff.

Reflection and prayer

We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which distances children, but gives them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a

moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well-known Christian/ Hindu/ Muslim prayer/poem/reading...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions. It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Resources

A variety of resources for worship are kept by the Headteacher and classroom staff. These resources are up-dated as required. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. For example:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

Temporary Covid-19 addendum to the collective worship policy - In order to comply with the Dfe guidance for the full reopening of school from 1st September2020

Collective worship will take place in classrooms only, in class 'bubbles' – sessions will still reflect the aims as set out in this policy.

Singing assemblies will not take place.