



**Little Houghton CEVA Primary School
Collective Worship Policy**

Our Vision for Little Houghton CEVA Primary School

‘Learning for Life’

Through:

- ❖ **Growth – realising our potential**
 - ❖ **Community – sharing and contributing**
 - ❖ **Spirituality – reflecting and thinking deeply**
 - ❖ **Environment – appreciating local and global environments**
- So that each child can flourish – like a flower of the field (Psalm 103:15)**

Mission Statement:

We aspire to attain high academic and moral standards, and to encourage emotional and spiritual **Our sense of community is reflected in our Ethos Statement:**

We are a Christian school working in partnership with parents and the wider community:

- Which maintains a welcoming, secure and inclusive environment
- Where God’s love is demonstrated and taught and where the emphasis is on the value God places on each individual
- Where we promote personal responsibility, good citizenship and Christian and British Values that develop high behavioural and moral standards based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Where we aspire to attain high academic standards, enable pupils to achieve their full potential and develop a lifelong love of learning
- Where true faith and sound learning flourish within the traditions of the Church of England
- That reflects on the spiritual values of the Christian church
- That epitomises core Christian values:
Community (Koinonia) – Generosity - Truthfulness – Dignity – Justice - Courage

Little Houghton CEVA Primary school strives to educate the individual according to Christian principles and values, to be caring in attitude, purposeful in approach and responsible in behaviour.

At Little Houghton CEVA Primary School, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, parents, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. All stakeholders are involved in monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship so that its impact can be analysed and developed further. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values

We blend Christian teaching and our Christian values in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Picture News

We use Picture News resources to stimulate and inform Collective worship. These resources are designed to provide opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for other’s beliefs, feelings and faiths. They encourage exploration, discussion, challenge and inspire children to learn. We use Picture News Collective Worship because we believe that teaching through the news not only provides great content and stimulus and grips children’s attention, it is also something that the children can impact. It is current, happening now and so their voice is given meaning and

purpose. It is our world and we all matter.

A core part of Collective Worship is to give children a voice and encourage them to use it to impact things they are inspired by or feel passionately about.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Under normal operating conditions our schedule would be as follows:

Monday- Whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Senior Teacher.

Tuesday– Whole school worship led by the Headteacher using Picture News Collective Worship as a stimulus.

Wednesday – Clergy/Visitor led worship.

Thursday - KS 2 children plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis usually linked to our Christian values. This will include prayer, reflection, a hymn, and story, a piece of music or drama, every 3 weeks. The other weeks are either class worship or KS worship times. These build on the themes introduced during whole school worship.

Friday – Achievers Worship – one child in each cohort receives a certificate and a marble for achieving success through qualities such as working hard, concentrating well, being imaginative, improving their learning, understanding others, 'going the extra mile' and not giving up. The child in school who most clearly displays our Christian value of the term 'in action' is also rewarded. Birthdays are celebrated, house points collected and a marble given to the winning house each week. Out of school achievements are also acknowledged and celebrated. This worship is an act of thanking God for all our different talents.

Worship lasts approximately 15-20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Tuesdays' and Thursdays' collective worship reflect the Picture News theme. Worship might also reflect our values focus for the term, the Church calendar, or our school ethos and current events. The worship usually takes the following format:

- The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music and this could come from a variety of cultures.
- A candle may be lit
- The worship includes children singing a hymn.
- The children are involved in the worship throughout
- The worship finishes with a prayer or reflection.
- The candle is blown out before any messages are given.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. A time of reflection and quiet may be encouraged by the lighting of a candle.

During prayer, children are asked to remain still and quiet and to show respect in a way that they choose.

As a Christian school we feel that all children should be taught to show proper respect to those with differing views and that Church of England schools are open to all irrespective of faith background.

At the beginning of lunchtime, a prayer is shared by a child.

Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the beginning and end of the school day.

Prayer Space sessions held termly for Key Stage 2 children provide an additional opportunity for prayer and reflection.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of a range of acts of worship evaluated by our children. This evidence provides a means for identifying what we do well and what could be improved. Governor monitoring of worship provides challenge and suggestions for actions in considering how we might move forward especially in enabling children to think more deeply about their worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, the school ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Mary's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. Parents are all welcome to join us in church for worship.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- The Collective Worship Leader and members of the Faith Committee of governors liaise to discuss various aspects of worship and this ensures an effective line of communication between the subject leader and the governing board. It also ensures that the school is both supported and challenged in evaluating the impact of Collective Worship on all members of the school community.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their participation in Collective Worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Carolyn Fairbrother
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