



*Dream to Achieve*

*'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'* Philippians 4:13

HAUGHTON ST. GILES CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY  
**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**  
**2022-25**

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Collective worship is a valued, integral part of daily school life for all pupils at Haughton St. Giles.

The main aim of collective worship is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, whatever their faith background, set within the Anglican Christian tradition of the school.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Motto and Vision:

**“Dream to Achieve“**

*“I can do all things through him who strengthens me”* Philippians 4:13

Dream to achieve captures our belief that children should be guided to work hard, stay focused and never give up on their dreams allowing each of them to strive to become the very best they can be.

**Children at Haughton St Giles Primary Academy flourish through experiencing an engaging, enriching and exciting curriculum, their beliefs and achievements are shared, celebrated and supported within our caring Christian community so all can “dream to achieve.”**

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, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Furthermore, through collective worship we provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; we encourage active participation and response through listening, questioning, exploring and reflecting. This contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child where the worth and value of every single person in the school community can be celebrated. This enables the school to develop a community spirit, promote shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

A broad and flexible approach is adopted for collective worship, where the whole community can experience the living expression of Christian worship as honoured through the school's Anglican ethos. This is set within the context of the corporate and inclusive community of our school, which values each individual regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.



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## **Christian Values**

Houghton St. Giles C of E Primary Academy promotes the core values of Respect, Resilience, Pride, Forgiveness, Trust and Faith; through these we explore the meaning of each value; make key references to scripture; and reflect and discuss how to promote each value within the community and the wider world. Furthermore, we make connections between our Christian Values and the wider British values to ensure that our pupils recognise their value as British Citizens.

## **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The daily act of collective worship at Houghton St. Giles complies with the school's Trust Deed, which requires worship to be, 'consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.'

In line with current legislation and advice collective worship is

- daily and for all pupils.
- broadly Christian
- flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude, faith and background of all the children at the school.
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, and with a variety of leaders.

We recognise the right of withdrawal of pupils from worship at the request of parents, but currently enjoy full pupil participation and full support of the school community.

## **AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY**

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration.

### **Worship**

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education 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. Collective worship creates an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural and aims to explore and enjoy the rituals and traditions of the Christian faith (particularly the Anglican tradition).

Worship creates a special atmosphere to allow for spiritual reflection, silence, prayer, praise and response.

Worship points pupils to an awareness of God.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the multi-cultural nature of our school community).



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Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to develop a faith to live by and make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

### **Assembly**

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school and evokes a sense of belonging. It develops a sense of community and shared values, enhancing the ethos of the school. Assembly is concerned with administrative and other matters about school life,

Assembly is an opportunity to celebrate achievements of individuals and groups, giving a sense of value and worth.

In assembly we consider the needs of others and the environment as well as encouraging/supporting charitable works.

Assembly aims to be challenging and inspiring, and foster a thought provoking atmosphere.

### **CURRENT PRACTICE**

At Houghton St. Giles a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. All teachers currently take an active role in leading worship, as well as the Headteacher and Faith Team. A wide variety of other pupil-led worship/assemblies is actively encouraged.

The Revd Catherine Brumfitt from St Giles C of E Church is a frequent (weekly) visitor to the school and leads worship.

Parents, governors, faith community representatives and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate. Visitors are invited to lead acts of worship, or to commemorate special festivals or school occasions. Celebration Worship takes place every Friday and is led by the Headteacher or a member of the senior management team. Value awards, decided upon by teachers and other school staff and children are presented at this worship as well as an opportunity for pupils to celebrate class/team achievements.

Each class within the school has its own unique worship area. This area is often utilised during classroom worship: it may include a cross, candle, Bible, prayer book, prayer stones.

A number of displays/prayer and reflection spaces around the school are of a Christian nature and may be an expression of children's spirituality and worship.



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### Weekly Worship

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

	EARLY YEARS	KEY STAGE 1	KEY STAGE 2
MONDAY	Whole school worship – Focused upon school Christian Values 10:30am Led by the Headteacher		
TUESDAY	Key Stage Worship 10:30am Lead by Teachers (rota'd) Classroom based		Key Stage Worship 10:30am Lead by Teachers (rota'd) Hall based
WEDNESDAY	Whole school worship – Clergy led (or Individual class based worship) 10:30am		
THURSDAY	Whole school assembly and worship Songs of worship and praise Teacher led (rota'd) 10:30am		
FRIDAY	Whole School Celebration Worship 3:00pm Headteacher led		

No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on school, local national or international incidents.

### Other daily acts

The lighting of the Trinity candle at the beginning of worship to symbolise the light of Jesus and create a calm, reflective atmosphere

The sharing of The Peace

The school/Lord's Prayer

Reflection time



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### **Worship in church**

In addition, the whole school worships in St Giles Church once every half term, in addition to Harvest and the main Christian celebrations throughout the year: Easter and Christmas. The Clergy and children play a key role in the planning and presentation of all of these services. Parents and friends are invited on these occasions.

Children also visit the church as part of the RE curriculum which also enhances their worship experience.

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 perform their Christmas performances, for the parents and friends, in the church offering another worship opportunity.

### **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured, in conjunction with the Local Governing Board, Headteacher, staff and school community.

Collective worship at Haughton St. Giles School is co-ordinated and planned by the Headteacher, R.E lead and Senior Leadership Team (alongside other subject leaders when/where relevant).

Collective Worship is planned to incorporate the half-termly Christian Value; linked bible stories and parables; fundamental British Values; and community/world events. These are carefully planned each half term to ensure that staff delivering worship are clear about the key message discussed within worship.

Faith Team alongside other pupils across the school, gather evidence through whole school discussion, at the end of each half term on the key points they have learned within Collective Worship. These are collated and uploaded onto our school website to be read by parents, pupils and other stakeholders.



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Policy dated.....5.9.22.....

Chair of Governors.....

CEO.....

Policy to be reviewed: Autumn Term 2025



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