

## **MAT Vision**

We aim to provide an education enriched by our Christian heritage, with four key elements which are at the heart of all that we are and align with the Church of England's Vision for education: Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity. Our learners are given opportunities to become independent, collaborative, creative learners who have the confidence to seek wisdom and nurture their love of learning. Our small school provides big opportunities to broaden learners' horizons and prepare them for the fullness of life, through hope, aspiration and our core Christian values. We focus on relationships and learning to live well in a wider community that can flourish together. Central to children's learning is respecting the worth, dignity and preciousness of each person in a safe and inclusive environment within the sight and love of God.

## **Rational**

Collective Worship at Harbertonford Church of England Primary School provides a major opportunity to express the Christian ethos of the school community. Caring relationships, vision and values all play a part in this important daily celebration of all that is of supreme worth to the school community.

## **The Principles of Worship**

- Collective Worship is inclusive. It is an activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- It can foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils, staff and parents whenever possible, together.
- It introduces pupils to aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere, celebrating God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whilst respecting the integrity of all present.
- It can offer experiences and opportunities which allow children to explore aspects of worship and encourage a development of the spiritual dimension of the child's life.
- It provides opportunities to invite members of the wider community into school and to celebrate special occasions.
- It allows time in a busy and demanding school day to stop and be still, to celebrate, reflect upon and affirm our Christian and moral values.
- It has a sense of occasion, either as a whole school or in an individual class situation.
- It is curricular. It is a learning experience intended to be a meaningful part of the whole curriculum, focusing on that which is 'of worth' in the life and work of the school.

- It encourages children to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- It provides opportunities for the exploration of a wide range of social and interpersonal issues in the context of a moral framework – supporting the fundamental British Values.
- It celebrates and reflects the Anglican foundation of the school.

## **Legal requirements**

- ❖ All pupils at Harbertonford Primary School shall take part each day in an act of collective worship, unless the parent requests that s/he be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school.
- ❖ The daily act of collective worship shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.
- ❖ Harbertonford is part of the Link Academy Trust (and was previously a Voluntary Aided school) therefore the provision of CW must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the academy.

## **Taking part in Collective Worship.**

Even though it is not a legal requirement, it is hoped that all staff will be prepared to lead collective worship. Worship at Harbertonford may be different from the worship offered by individual faith. It is for this reason that worship in schools has been called ‘collective’ since it must promote the spiritual development of people of all faiths, or of none.

We aim to involve all of our school community as far as possible in our collective worship, both in attendance and participation; this includes our children, our staff, our parents and where possible our governors.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. As a school we encourage dialogue with parents, so that any concern about any activity is discussed to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

## **Collective Worship and Assembly**

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of our school. Part of it can be concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life. 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. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

## **Visitors**

We welcome other people into school to lead our worship, including Rev. David Sayle from our parish church. The Open Book team bring bible stories to life for us through their five visits each term.

Visitors could be of another Christian denomination but they should not promote their own style of beliefs ahead of those of the Church of England. People of other religions could be involved in assemblies but would not lead the act of worship.

## **Context of Collective worship**

Our pattern of Collective Worship is set out below:

**Monday** –Whole school Open the Book or values Collective Worship (fortnightly rotation)

**Tuesday** –Whole school values themed CW

**Wednesday** – CW in St. Peter’s church/CW through music and singing (fortnightly rotation).

**Thursday** – Class based CW; opportunity to reflect on our current value focus

**Friday** – Whole school celebration act of worship, including pupils’ achievements

## **Planning and resources**

We carefully plan for and evaluate our acts of worship, organising our planning around the church calendar, to reflect the festivals and events of the Christian year and also the values of the Christian faith, including our core school values. We run a two year rolling programme to keep material fresh. There is of course enough flexibility to respond to particular and immediate situations that are relevant and which impact on the children directly, for example events of local, national or international importance.

We use the format of welcome, teaching/learning, reflecting and responding, with the Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach to promote the children’s spiritual and moral development.

Resources used to enhance our collective worship include focal object/display of artefacts, bible readings, stories, music. poetry, art, power-point presentations and use of on-line resources.

A candle is lit to act as a focal point and this helps to mark the beginning of worship and the end of more ‘assembly’ based administration.

Music is important to help create an atmosphere that is conducive to our collective worship, whether that is in a celebratory mood, or a more calming and reflective one.

The collective worship programme will be evaluated annually, via discussion with staff, pupils, parents, governors, or by means of a survey/questionnaire.

**Reviewed by Board of Trustees: 7 December 2020**