



Humshaugh C of E (Aided) First School Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed	January 2026
Date to be reviewed	January 2028
Signed	J.L.Long

Our school Vision - 'To be 'good soil'

- Our vision is to be 'good soil' for the children and adults of Humshaugh C of E (Aided) First School, all based on Jesus' parable of the soils found in Matthew's gospel which you can read below.
- Our **values** are sowing the seed well, cultivating the soil, preparing the ground and then nurturing in order to enable everyone to flourish. They're drawn from our vision and as a whole school community we say we persevere in:

Sowing the seed well

- To place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life.
- To prepare children and adults for their place in society as lifelong learners and contributors.

Cultivating good soil

- To provide a high quality and nurturing learning environment.

Nurturing in order to enable everyone to flourish

- To be dedicated to continuous improvement, challenging ourselves, celebrating our successes and always aspiring to be "the best we can be".
- To enable each child and adult to flourish and achieve.

Producing a bumper crop

- To promote our Christian ethos and values through lively, intelligent and creative participation.
- To provide an inviting, inclusive school environment where all members of the school community, of all faiths or none, are valued, respected and care for one another.
- To encourage and develop links between the school, home, our parishes and the local, national and global community.
- To provide a high quality and nurturing learning environment.

Introduction

It is our aim to reflect the school's Church of England foundation in a tangible way; by providing opportunities for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere. Through this, children learn about and are nurtured in the Christian faith, thus gaining a lifelong understanding of Christian values.

The school aims to serve its community by providing the highest quality of education, in which all children are offered the widest possible range of experiences, in an environment which encourages learning and an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, promoting Christian values through the experiences it offers to all pupils. Collective Worship is an important part of this provision.

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that every maintained school includes provision for a daily act of worship. As Humshaugh First School is a Voluntary Aided school, the arrangements for a daily act of worship are the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. Our distinctly Christian Collective Worship is at the centre of school life in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church of England at parish and diocesan level. Daily collective worship provides opportunities for all to **gather** together, **engage** and **respond** to a bible story or a current affairs situation plus a related bible text. The aim is to promote our school vision and to **send** us out inspired to be 'good soil' in our school, in our village and in our world.

The Education Reform Act 1988 states:

"The educational curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and of society"

The daily act of worship at Humshaugh First School as well as providing pupils with an opportunity to worship Christ, supports them to consider and explore spiritual and moral, social and cultural issues and to explore their own beliefs.

We are aware that School worship is different in character to worship amongst groups with beliefs in common, hence the use of the word "collective" rather than "corporate." Therefore, it is always offered in a way that is inclusive and invitational to all. For example, prayers may be said by individual children or by adults or together, but it is made clear each time that every child or adult can choose to make it their own prayer by saying Amen.

The right of parents and carers to withdraw their children from the act of Collective Worship is enshrined in the Education Act (1988). Any parent or carer wishing to exercise this right should let the school know of their decision. Any child who is withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised appropriately.

Our Collective Worship

1. Gathering: We make use of readings, responses and prayers and sometimes music to provide a breathing space in the busy whirl of school activity, a time to gather, be still and reflect, a time to refresh the spirit; We often reflect the Anglican tradition when we gather in a number of ways. For example, we use set opening and closing words ('liturgy') and the lighting of a candle to reflect that it is something special or separate from ordinary school activities and should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. In Early Years this is often done with the lighting of a candle with a puppet. In Years 1-4 the following words are used:

Opening words:

Child or adult Leader: The Lord be with you.....

Children: And also with you.

Closing words:

Child or adult Leader: Go in Peace...

Children: We go in Peace.

Child or adult Leader: Go in Joy.....

Children: We go in Joy.

Child or adult Leader: Go in Love.....

Children: We go in Love.

These words and the regular use of our School Prayer in Collective Worship help staff and children to develop a feeling of belonging to a community which we consider to be essential to personal development.

We also say the Lord's prayer together and 'The Grace' prayer on a weekly basis in Collective Worship, as well as a daily prayer of thanks before lunch.

Our 'altar' cloth in the hall is changed to reflect the Church's seasonal colours, Advent is marked by the lighting of candles on an altar wreath, and an Easter Garden is also displayed here. Our Vicar, Rev. Sarah Lunn also talks to the children about other Anglican traditions e.g, Candlemas, Lent, Pentecost

Engaging: Each week the children have the opportunity to engage with a Bible story (often told from the Lion Storyteller Bible) or Picture News Story which is

linked to a Christian value and a Bible passage. These provide opportunities for pupils to experience the awe and wonder of God and His Creation; They also help children to think about a wide variety of ideas including the spiritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous! Some Bible stories are chosen to link to Global Neighbours to show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global; Many Picture News stories also point to stories across the world and encourage children to show care and concern for others in society and for the natural world; Other Picture News stories link to things within children's own experience and aspects of school life.

3. Responding:

On a 'Picture News' week, this is done by asking the children to participate in discussions from the the CW PowerPoint slide which are differentiated for KS1 and KS2 children. On a 'Bible Story' week discussions are facilitated by 'wondering questions' related to the story. These begin by being related to their own experiences and we acknowledge diversity and affirm those present, whatever their faith or non-faith background. They lead to questions about the wider applications of the story's theme including questions about God and responses to belief in God.

4. Sending:

We provide opportunities for the development of children's spiritual and moral growth prayer and reflection that is meaningful to their everyday life in school and at home in our Collective Worship. At the end of each week (or daily in Early Years) children have opportunities to reflect on something to take away from this week's collective worship. It might be something that has caused them to have an 'Ow' 'Wow' 'Now' moment or to think 'How' they could make a difference to a situation in our school, in our village or in our world. Where possible this might feed into a plan for an individual or a class to follow through and could be suggested to the school council for whole school action. Children have regular opportunities to record these reflections by writing or drawing in their individual 'Spiritual Journal.' (see Spirituality Policy)

Planning and organisation

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the staff, the **Parish Priest** and a linked governor. The weekly themes for Collective Worship are chosen through using our own devised **2-year Long-term** plan which includes Bible Stories and the use of Picture News on alternate weeks. Plans are evaluated and adapted by all who lead Collective Worship. Collective Worship is properly resourced in terms of time, resources and budget. Evaluations are recorded by those who lead Collective Worship.

Our planning for Collective Worship offers a variety of experiences including whole school Collective Worship led by the Parish Priest, the Head Teacher or pupils, Class Collective Worship, Worship through Singing and Celebration Collective Worship to celebrate the successes and share any disappointments of the school community.

The school also worships in the parish church of St. Peter's to celebrate major church festivals. Visits for special occasion worship are made to Hexham Abbey and Newcastle Cathedral (leaver's services). Once each term, worship is led for the whole school by a different class.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the CW Co-ordinator and the Head Teacher with advice and guidance from the parish priest and the linked governor for CW. Pupil and staff evaluations of individual acts of worship are recorded by those who lead Collective Worship. The monitoring and evaluation of acts of Collective Worship can be undertaken through:

- discussing with staff and children as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship on their spiritual development;
- observing, monitoring, evaluating and recording acts of worship in order to assess children's involvement, the appropriateness of content and presentation in helping to develop children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding;
- identifying any relevant training needs amongst those who lead collective worship;
- monitoring and developing resources;
- checking that appropriate opportunities are taken which raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues;
- ensuring that the legal requirements for collective worship are being met.

Resources

- Table, cross, seasonal 'altar' cloth, candles to create a focus for Collective Worship in the hall
- Candles in classrooms.

- 'Jack in a Box' Resources in Early Years
- a wide range of books in classrooms and the school, library offering stories and themes;
- artefact boxes covering Christianity as well as other major religious worldviews
- Music CDs, MP3 tracks; links to worship songs on CW PowerPoints.
- display space around the worship area of the hall linked to Spirituality, School Vision, CW and RE, showing children's work;
- Picture News resources and display

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

Collective Worship will be all-inclusive, accessible to all children regardless of faith, ability, gender or educational needs.

Withdrawal

The main aim of Collective Worship is for it to be meaningful for all pupils, whether from a faith background or not. It is therefore hoped that parents will not feel the need to withdraw their children, as is their right, from Collective Worship. This right is outlined in the school prospectus.

Conclusion

"Christian Worship is an honouring of God. It acknowledges His central transcendence and Holiness (His 'worth' and 'value'). It is a loving response to His nature as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God. We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in the school situation 'all we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish'."

Diocese of Ely: Guidelines for Collective Worship

Reviewing the Collective Worship Policy

The responsibility for reviewing this policy resides with the Governing Body and the policy will be reviewed approximately every two years.