



## HEYTESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Working together so that all may flourish.*

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

#### Our vision

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 9 v1*

#### Our Vision Vessel

For our Vision Vessel, we have chosen a rocket to represent our school. Our school isn't actually a rocket – we're not actually going to take off, but we do want to push ourselves to keep getting better in everything that we do. A rocket travels upwards through space - and as space is infinite there is no end to where it can go, like our learning.

Just as space surrounds our rocket, we know that God is always all around us, and always loves us. This is why the space around our rocket represents God.

Every rocket needs fuel so that it has the power to take off and keep travelling. Our Christian Values help us to learn:

**Perseverance** and **courage** help us keep going when things are difficult. **Friendship** helps us in our relationships with others and ourselves; **truthfulness** and **forgiveness** are needed if things have gone wrong. Finally, we all need **wisdom** in every part of our lives to help us make good choices.

This is why the fuel in our rocket represents our Christian Values.

Every rocket has to fly on a steady path. It needs fins to balance it. The people of Heytesbury, Open the Book and our British Values keep us steady on our way.

A space ship is going to discover new places and probably have some problems along the way, so an expert – a Science officer - is needed to help to solve these problems by giving advice. If we have any

questions about God or worries we'd like to talk through or pray about, the vicar is here to help. The Science officer aboard our vessel represents our Vicar, Trudy.

Every ship needs a captain who is in charge and who makes important decisions, in the same way that Miss Elson, our head teacher, does. Additionally, a captain needs a crew that can be relied upon to help so, we've made Mrs Godfrey the captain of our rocket and the teachers and TAs are her crew.

The passengers on our rocket represent all the children in our school – including Hedgehogs. Everything and everyone on our rocket is helping them to get to where they need and want to be.

The engineering team on a ship keep everything running smoothly, which is why the engineering team on our rocket represents Mrs. Bligden, Mrs. Burnard and Mrs. Park.

Ground control is where experts work to keep an eye on what is going on in space. They can monitor what is happening and give advice if there is a problem, in order to fix it. For this reason, ground control represents the Acorn Trust, our Governors and Mr Porter. They all keep an eye on what we are doing to make sure that we're always doing our best.

A space station is a place where rockets can dock in order to for the astronauts to reload with provisions or rest. Our families are always there for us. They look after us before and after school, making sure we have everything we need and they enjoy hearing about our successes.

There is so much for us all to discover and learn – just as there are lots of planets and stars. There will also be some obstacles on our 'voyage' – there are black holes, space debris and asteroids out there. In school we won't always find things easy but we'll learn to manage our problems – together, we are an amazing team when we all work together.

### *Working together so that all may flourish*

Through adhering to our vision, we aim to ensure that the school environment is a safe and caring place where our children can flourish spiritually, mentally and physically regardless of ethnicity, belief system or gender orientation, thus valuing all God's children.

<b>School lead</b>	<b>C Bourne</b>
<b>Governor lead</b>	<b>Rev T</b>
<b>Last Review</b>	<b>June 2018</b>
<b>Revised</b>	<b>September 2021</b>
<b>Next review</b>	<b>September 2022</b>

## Local Requirements

Heytesbury Church of England Primary School is Voluntary Aided. The Trust Deeds state that worship should be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. In accordance with legal requirements, an act of worship is provided daily. Staff are encouraged to attend the act of worship.

## Rationale

It is our aim that children and staff should enjoy acts of worship together in order to reflect how faith and belief impact on our daily lives. There is a clear expectation that all children will participate in worship. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual development and growth of pupils and staff and to the building up of the school community. Acts of worship allow the development of an understanding of the Anglican traditions which underpin the Christian faith.

## Collective worship aims to:

- be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners so that they can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and life within and beyond school;
- provide opportunities for reflection about life issues and allow pupils and staff to respond with integrity;
- strengthen and support the school, local and wider community;
- challenge learners of all backgrounds to embark on their own journey of spirituality, and develop the value of prayer, stillness, and reflection;
- include Biblical material, and an introduction to the style and practice of the Church of England within the context of the Church's Year, including traditional responses and prayers, hymns, time for reflection and a focus on Values for Life;
- deepen the spiritual dimension of life and explore an awareness of the Divine;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling all learners to have a strong understanding of the Holy Trinity.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Heytesbury School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate achievement and effort;
- sharing and experiencing differences, successes and difficulties;
- the development of a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- providing a break from the rush of life;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- speaking, listening and responding to an audience;
- developing inner and spiritual awareness;
- embedding traditional British values.

# Collective Worship Policy

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## Planning

Acts of worship routinely explore a termly Christian value, are related to events in the Church Year or focus on a developmental area of school, for example, the vision vessel. A rich variety of prayers, music, story and symbol will be used to enhance worship; times of reflection and silence are included. Structured reflection may be used in response to international, national or local events. The 'Values for Life' resource is one of the materials used as a basis of the planning for collective worship – other methods of planning, for example, through the children's questions are used to provide variety. **From September 2020, the Roots and Fruits resource will be used.**

The worship leader provides outline planning for each term's worship. A display to celebrate, enhance and provide a reference for each Christian value will be situated in the hall, and regularly changed. In order that the children should understand that our values are firmly Christian, Biblical stories are central to worship and those relevant to the current value are shared with the children.

Staff, pupils or visitors who deliver worship follow the structure: gather, engage, respond, send.

## Vision Vessel and Christian Values

Following the development of our school Vision Vessel, the values cycle was adapted to ensure and embed a clear understanding of the significance of our vision which includes the British Values, linking the latter to teachings from the Bible.

## Worship Plan:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Courage	Truthfulness	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Wisdom	Friendship

## Our timetable for Collective worship

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Type	Whole School	Whole School	Singing	Class Worship	Celebration
Led by	Head teacher	Member of staff / Rev Trudy/ Open the Book	Mrs Bourne	Class Teacher	Head teacher and Y6 pupils

## **Evaluation and reflection**

All participants are involved in the evaluation process.

Staff may add comments to planning documents to inform future planning. Time is given in staff meetings to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship.

At the end of each term, the children will reflect on the worship, doing so in any form which is appropriate and which is chosen by the teacher or the pupils. Year books, completed at the end of each term, document class topics and learning as well as termly values.

Every two years, a questionnaire will be given to all stakeholders. This will inform future planning and delivery of worship.

## **Opportunities for acts of worship at other times of the school day**

At certain points of the school day, for example, before lunch or at the end of the day, or when otherwise appropriate, children are enabled and encouraged to engage in a moment of quiet contemplation. Silent, traditional, or spontaneous prayers are led by the children, or staff, in order to involve each individual in active participation and engagement with this time of reflection.

Areas of reflection are situated in each classroom. A garden of Remembrance is located at the front of the school. Children or staff may use these spaces as they feel necessary.

Written prayers and worries are collected separately in the reflection area of classrooms and passed on to the vicar. They are then taken to church where they are placed on the altar and become a focal point for congregational prayer.

## **Monitoring**

Collective Worship is regularly monitored, including within the annual 'Church School Audit'. Foundation governors attend worship periodically and are included in the monitoring process. Monitoring will include consideration of resourcing, budget and training needs.

## **The right of withdrawal from Worship**

We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that members of the school community have the legal right to withdraw themselves or their children from worship on the grounds of conscience.

We would ask any person considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education in our schools.