



Hebden Royd C.E. (VA) Primary &  
Nursery School

**Collective Worship Policy**

**Approved by:**

Headteacher &  
Governing Body

**Date:** January 2022

**Last reviewed on:**

January 2022

**Next review due by:**

January 2025

## Rationale

At Hebden Royd Church of England (Voluntary Aided) School, we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, in addition to this we also look at the stories of the major religions as we feel that all this will help us to become a living community in which we learn to develop a reflective approach to life, to identify, affirm and celebrate Christian values, such as kindness, understanding, tolerance, sharing and forgiveness, and to grow together in mutual respect and love.

## Aims and Purpose

At Hebden Royd, Collective Worship in our school aims to give all children in school the opportunity to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

## Guidelines

Using our School Values, each week we focus on an aspect of the chosen value for the half term. This is then often followed through in class activities or discussed in Circle time to support the importance of worship/values throughout daily life, providing a common theme throughout school.

Samples of work are displayed, and children have opportunity to discuss their points of view.

## Organisation

Provision for collective worship is as follows:

**Monday** – the Vicar leads focusing on our School Values

**Tuesday** – Singing - led by Headteacher

**Wednesday** – Class based worship in which children have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the 'BIG Questions'

**Thursday** – Class based worship in which children have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the 'BIG Questions'

**Friday** – Celebration assembly to which parents are invited – led by Headteacher looking at our "Pupils of the Week" Dojo Points winners, House winner and celebrating any other achievements including birthdays.

## **Learning expectations and intended outcomes**

We use a table covered in the appropriate liturgical cloth plus a lighted candle to focus our minds. We try to make our assemblies as interactive as possible, and we ask the pupils from upper KS2 to observe and comment on the content and delivery as part of our commitment to pupil voice.

The theme for the half term is displayed around school in each classroom and communal area and is referred to regularly during the school week. Follow up work is planned for some of the weeks, and this is displayed in the hall or around the school.

We have a school prayer which is recited at least once a week involving the parents.

## **Equal Opportunities**

In sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives, along with our common concerns, responsibilities and values, we affirm the equality of each individual, regardless of gender, creed, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

The staff and governors at Hebden Royd are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that inclusion is promoted and that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

## **Withdrawal of Pupils**

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians, or to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our ethos and are reflected in the themes of our worship.

Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship this is discussed with the Headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an "extended family". For this reason, children and teachers are expected to attend all collective worship events as a matter of course.

## **Monitoring and review**

We encourage pupils to give us their opinion of collective worship so that we can make it more accessible for them. Feedback from parents and visitors is also taken.

We constantly seek to improve our assemblies and to provide new stories for the children to contemplate.