



Cam Hopton Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided)

Life in all its fullness

Collective Worship Policy

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This policy is to be reviewed in line with other related policies and any other documentation from the DfE, Ofsted and Gloucestershire Diocese.

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Introduction

Name of School: Cam Hopton Church of England (VA) Primary School
School's Vision: 'Life in all its fullness'

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school, or those who have been withdrawn by parents. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Cam Hopton CE Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework 2023, which asks 'How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually? They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher. These requirements are further met through the involvement of the Vicar of St. George's church and the commitment of the school staff.

School Statement on Collective Worship

In Cam Hopton worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. Our school vision is 'Life in all its fullness' and through collective worship we aim to express this vision, which is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

In Cam Hopton the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

“Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope”¹

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given.

Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths²) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.³ Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Aims and Guiding Principles

This school follows the guiding principles highlighted in the document: Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021 which is included as Appendix 1 at the end of this policy. *Collective worship in Cam Hopton aims to be:*

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and for some to God. It is recognized that pupils will bring their own experience to Worship.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to ‘do anything’.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do.

¹ CEE Vision statement “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good” Autumn 2016

² Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

³ “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

In Cam Hopton worship should:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' to flourish spiritually
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, through inviting children to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introducing them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before meal times and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Organisation

Pattern of Worship:

We set out to create sufficient variety in the pattern of worship to ensure a sense of enjoyment and involvement, to provide for the needs of varying age groups and to encourage participation by pupils. Consequently we believe there should be flexibility in the grouping of children, the timing, the content and the format of worship.

The pattern of worship at Cam Hopton has emerged through discussion involving the staff, children and clergy.

The whole school takes part in three acts of worship each week in the school hall. Once a

week, the act of worship is led through 'Open the Book', conducted by members of St. George's Church.

We also hold acts of worship to which parents and governors are invited. They are:

- Major festivals – services held in church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Leaver's Service – held in St. George's Church for transitioning Year 6 pupils.

Presentation of Worship:

A range of people are normally involved in the presentation of worship:

- Whole School Worship – led by the Headteacher, Clergy and Open the Book.
- Choral Worship – led by the Collective Worship leader and class teachers.
- Class-Based Worship – led by class teachers and children.
- Child-Led Worship – led by children and the Open the Book team.
- Church Services – led by the Clergy and the Headteacher with the children taking an active role.

If the Headteacher is unavailable the Deputy Head/SLT will deputise.

In addition, visiting speakers are invited to come and talk to the children about their work or charity.

Content of Worship:

Worship at Cam Hopton is based on 'Values for Life' which include our 6 Core Values and 'Roots and Fruits'. It is planned in advance on a termly basis (6 values each year) and the themes reflect a range of ideas through which we explore our dependence on God's grace.

Values for Life (core values in bold) are: Truthfulness, **Creativity**, Compassion, Courage, Friendship, **Generosity**, **Perseverance**, Justice, **Respect**, Service, Thankfulness, **Trust**, and **Forgiveness**.

Worship also includes:

- The Church calendar and major festivals
- Historical events and famous people
- Projects being undertaken by pupils
- School events
- Personal qualities
- Creation and the natural world
- Moral and social issues
- A celebration of the values of our community
- Special themes e.g. charity links, current affairs etc.

These ideas are expressed in a wide variety of ways to provide a meaningful experience.

The method of presentation may include:

- The spoken word (stories, readings, poetry, discussions)
- Visual aids (posters, photographs, pictures, children's work)
- Creative arts (movement, PE, mime, Drama, Music, dance)
- A quiet period (prayer, silence, reflection)
- Hymns and songs

The Structure of Worship:

- Music is played at the beginning and end of Collective Worship and the children are encouraged to listen to it and their inner self and the ideas we have been considering.
- The Gathering – 3 candles are lit as a point of focus and we say and sign the words:
'God of our minutes, God of our Days, God of our years, we set apart this time for you.'
- The Word – a story from the Bible and a response/reflection.
- The Sending Out – a prayer and Grace at which point we say:
'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. Amen.'

Resources:

Resources are held in the school and include:

- Values for Life/Roots and Fruits
- Resources produced by the Jumping Fish Company. E.g. Explore Series: Wise Ways for Living, An Artists View of God and The Language of Spirituality
- Prayers and prayer books
- Bibles
- Bob Hartman – Telling the Bible

The school uses the following sources of hymns:

- Come and Praise 1 & 2
- Come and Praise Beginning
- Junior Praise
- Kidsource
- iSingPop

The children have a wide repertoire of hymns, including some of the more traditional favourites that can be used in our church services so that the parents can join in. At school the hymns are sung using a projector rather than hymn books. We have taken part in 2 iSing Pop concerts, from which we use songs.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of worship is recorded by link governors, members of the clergy, staff and pupils from the Worship Council in the following ways:

- A feedback and evaluation form
- Through Collective Worship Council discussions and minutes
- Through *Vision and Values* governor meetings

Overtime this leads to actions being proposed which improve worship. E.g. Children playing invitational music on the piano, guitar etc. as their peers enter the hall for worship; using resources such as *The Pop Box* to support children in leading worship and learning scripts for participation in Open the Book.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each member of the school community has roles and responsibilities to uphold the principles and actions of this policy as follows:

- The governing body: hold the school to account for upholding the Christian values, principles and vision of being a Church of England school.
- The headteacher and SLT: to monitor and facilitate the activities included in leading Collective Worship; to lead Collective Worship and to ensure that staff are role models for the Christian values of the school.
- The Clergy: to lead and support worship in partnership with the SLT on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church year where possible and appropriate; to support leaders of worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology and the teachings of the Bible.
- Teaching and Support Staff: to demonstrate the Christian vision of the school through their actions with children and guide children to be involved in worship.
- Pupils: to show the Christian values of the school through their actions and offer their thoughts and opinions when evaluating worship; to take part in leading and participating in worship.
- Parents and Carers: to make a decision about their child's participation in worship; to encourage their children to demonstrate values in action and be thoughtful, curious individuals.
- Visitors: to follow the guiding principles of worship and provide guidance, a critical eye and inspiration for worship.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as teams. Additionally support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Cam Hopton there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document and the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document (May 2021).

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

Cam Hopton CE Primary School is committed to equality, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This school aims to serve the community by providing high quality education and promoting Christian Values.