

Collective Worship inc. Community Cohesion Policy

Hartford Church of England High School



Approved by: Curriculum & Standards Committee

Date: June 2020

Last reviewed on: 11th July 2023

Next review due by: Summer Term 2026

HARTFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

OVERVIEW:

Hartford Church of England High School will play its part in helping all learners to become members of a welcoming and cohesive community and prepared for life in a country whose population has an increasingly rich diversity of backgrounds, origins, beliefs and cultures. We will help all to belong and to feel equally valued as members of our school and as citizens and residents of the United Kingdom.

The school will contribute to promoting community cohesion by developing its teaching, learning and curriculum to help children all to learn to understand others, to value diversity whilst also promoting shared values. These shared values will include British Values and Distinctively Christian values. These distinctively Christian values will be delivered in part through collective worship.

Introduction

There are three main legal requirements for collective worship:

- Collective worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship in a community school, that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character does not apply in a church school, where it should be clearly Christian.
- The school must provide an act of collective worship for all students every day.
- The act of collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.

(School Standards and Framework Act 1998, section 70 and schedule 20)

The right of withdrawal.

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus where it states:

'All parents continue to have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship'

If there are any students whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the student's parents. This does not mean that the students will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

Aims and Objectives

At Hartford Church of England High School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Students are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for students to:

- provide an opportunity for students to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for students to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the students; and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give students the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that students will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

Activities

At Hartford Church of England High School we acknowledge the range of approaches that can be adopted to ensure effective acts of collective worship.

Adults can lead worship through	Pupils can participate by
⇒ Tone/Approach	⇒ Meditative
⇒ enthusiasm	⇒ thinking
⇒ humour	⇒ listening
⇒ openness	⇒ reflecting
⇒ sincerity	⇒ being still
⇒ Meditative	⇒ Visual
⇒ reflection	⇒ organising the room
⇒ stilling	⇒ Verbal
⇒ silence	⇒ praying
⇒ Visual	⇒ debating
⇒ artefacts	⇒ answering
⇒ posters	⇒ asking questions
⇒ pictures	⇒ writing reflective diaries
⇒ clothing	⇒ writing letters
⇒ different seating arrangements	⇒ Active
⇒ Verbal	⇒ leading
⇒ discussion	⇒ laughing
⇒ prayer	⇒ reading
⇒ music	⇒ welcoming guests
⇒ poetry	⇒ making music
⇒ story	⇒ outdoor experiences
⇒ personal stories/ experiences	⇒ talents, hobbies, success
⇒ using a variety of language, myth, metaphor	⇒ class/ group activities
⇒ using sacred texts	⇒ using their senses - eating, smelling...
⇒ communicating to a divine being	⇒ physical movement
⇒ Active	⇒ crying
⇒ ritual action	⇒ miming
⇒ visitors from the local community	⇒ singing
⇒ involving others	⇒ planning
⇒ music	⇒ celebration of work
⇒ drama	
⇒ songs/band /live music	
⇒ Technological	
⇒ ICT- CD ROM's	
⇒ video , lighting	

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the Chaplain. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing students' attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from students, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on students' attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship and its implementation

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. At Hartford Church of England High School this will occur regularly in accordance with the learning walk cycles.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The Chaplain, the Assistant Headteacher and Foundation Governor(s) will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually**

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all students regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all students unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Assistant Head Teacher and Governing Body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Hartford Church of England High School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the Chaplain. She/he plans themes, plans the form tutor worship, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is also the responsibility of the Chaplain.

Conclusion

At Hartford Church of England High School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all students and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Signature and date

Policy last reviewed July 2023 Next review date Summer Term 2026.

Chaplain : Mrs T Morgan.

Governor responsible for Collective Worship : Revd. M Smith.