 

Hutchinson Memorial CE First School

**Learning together for life.**

**‘Love one another.  As I have loved you.’  (John 13.34)**

At Hutchinson Memorial, our Christian foundations are at the heart of everything we do.  We strive for every child to be resilient, adaptable and to flourish in an ever-changing world through an inspiring, enriched curriculum.  Our vision is to provide a happy, loving, nurturing school where we can ignite a passion for learning and an ambition for everyone to fulfil their hopes and dreams.

**Collective Worship Policy**

**October 2023**

Collective worship at Hutchinson Memorial CE First School plays an important part in the life of our school. The positive and caring ethos of our school offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship that is valued and honoured through the school’s Anglican foundation.

We provide opportunities for every child to reach their full potential, valuing every individual’s contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion. We embrace our Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps as children of God.

Rationale

Our daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deeds of our school. It requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God’s love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

DfES Legislation

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children’s education.

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

• Provide an experience of worship that will enable children to develop spiritually and allow them to respond to the presence, power and peace of God, through reflection, prayer, meditation and silence.

• Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.

• Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord’s Prayer.

• Strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.

• Enhance the spiritual development of the children.

• Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.

• Learn about and reflect on Christian teaching, biblical material and Christian festivals.

• Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them.

• Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world.

• Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday Open the Book Team lead whole school worship fortnightly. Alternate Mondays, worship is class based and led by class teachers, incorporating elements of meditation.

Tuesday Whole school Worship through Song led by our Foundation Governor and Headteacher.

Wednesday Whole school worship led by class teachers.

Thursday Whole school worship led by Headteacher.

Friday Whole school worship led fortnightly by Jordan Lambert (Christian Schools Worker). This includes Celebration Worship.

In the Hall our worship table has a wooden cross as a focal point and candles are lit as children join together in welcoming God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our worship table reflects the liturgical colours, mirroring the church year. Music is played as children enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. The Lord’s Prayer is recited regularly, along with our school prayer. A wide range of approaches are used in worship, including drama, discussion, reflection, reading, singing and prayer.

We have a Prayer Tree next to the worship table. This is used throughout the year for example; to remember those lost in wars; to be thankful for our God given gifts.

Our Worship Team are proud to be involved in the leading of worship in many ways, for example - setting up the worship area, preparing readings, leading the responses and the prayers and leading worship.

The whole school regularly attend services in Church including; Harvest Festival, Nativity, Remembrance, Easter, Advent, Epiphany, Mothering Sunday, Pentecost and a service to celebrate our school leavers in the summer. Families and friends are invited to join us for these services.

We have adopted twelve Christian values that form the basis of our worship and wider school life. Each value is explored and all worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus. Each week, children who have demonstrated our values are recognised and celebrated in our Celebration Worship and receive a Headteacher’s Certificate.

Significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day are also recognised. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events, or a need from the children or community, to be included in reflection and prayers.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Worship is recorded in our book of Love which is on display on the Worship Table, recording details of acts of worship. Evaluations are recorded here. This book is looked at by the children and Foundation Governor when they meet each term.

Agreed by Local Governing Body: October 2023.

Review Date: October 2024

Signed V Bennett

Chair of Governors