



Policy No. 102

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by	Governing Body
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Issue or revision no.	3

Holmer Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Four basic elements run through our whole curriculum. Through our curriculum we foster wisdom, hope, cooperation and dignity to enable every child to flourish in the fullness of life.

Holmer Academy, as a Church School seeks to build on the key Christian beliefs in: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father who made the world and humans in his own image. This inspires us to treat all people as equal, irrespective of our many differences (including creed, race, sexuality, gender etc.). It encourages us to look after this world as God's stewards.

God the Son who came to this world and gave his life for it. This inspires us to value each human being and make great effort to promote the physical, mental and spiritual well-being and development of every child.

God the Holy Spirit who works in our lives to produce love, joy, peace, gentility, patience, self-control, goodness, kindness and faithfulness. This reminds us that school is not just about the pursuit of academic knowledge, nor life about selfish happiness.

The school encourage students to live fully, developing their knowledge and abilities wisely for the good of others.

Based on the above...

Holmer aim to help the children to realise their full potential by providing:

- Happy and stimulating surroundings, which enable children to make the most of their opportunities and abilities.
- Caring and committed staff and an ethos of concern for others and responsibility for our own actions.
- A broad, balanced, challenging and relevant curriculum, which caters for the needs of individual children.
- Up to date learning materials, technology and teaching and learning materials, which equip children for a fast changing world.

Holmer are also committed to helping our children develop:

- Courtesy, good manners and consideration towards all others.
- Relationships based on mutual respect and self-discipline
- Lively minds, knowledge, understanding, and a range of practical and mental skills.
- A determination to strive for his or her best in intellectual, physical, creative and spiritual growth.
- A love of learning and pride in their quality of work.
- Appreciation and interest in music, art and drama.
- Healthy bodies and minds
- Citizenship skills along with a respect for the multi-faith world in which we live

- Independence and resilience
- Respect and stewardship skills for our environment

Responsibility for the policy and procedure

Role of the Governing Body

The governing body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure collective worship takes place in the school within the traditions of the Church of England
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy
- responsibility for ensuring this policy is maintained and updated regularly
- responsibility for ensuring this policy is made available to parents/carers
- responsibility for involving the School Council in the development of this policy
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

- ensure high quality collective worship that makes a significant contribution to the Christian character and ethos of the school
- provide spiritual leadership for the whole school community
- enable pupils to engage with and develop an understanding of God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents/carers are supportive of and comply with this policy
- ensure that daily collective worship takes place
- nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the coordination and development of this policy
- work closely with the nominated coordinator
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy
- annually report to the governing body on the effectiveness and development of this policy.

Role of the Coordinator

- work closely with the Headteacher and the Vicar (**presently Rev. Steven Lee**) or their representative to develop the Christian foundation of the school
- work closely with Vicar and other local church leaders in involving them in leading worship
- develop a structured and coherent programme of themes to deliver high quality collective worship
- provide guidance and support to all staff
- provide training for staff on induction and when the need arises in leading class worship
- liaise with the Designated officer for worship and RE and attend Diocesan briefing sessions

- keep up to date with new developments and resources
- take a leading role in completing the toolkit for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)
- lead the development of this policy throughout the school.

Role of the Governors Curriculum and Standards Committee

This committee will focus on monitoring effectiveness and will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and the Coordinator
- monitor the extent to which collective worship is having a significant impact on the distinctiveness of the school
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date
- ensure that this policy is accessible to everyone connected with the school
- annually report to the governing body on the effectiveness and development of this policy.

Role of School Personnel

- comply with all aspects of this policy
- all staff as far as is practicable to attend and participate

Role of Pupils

- be aware of and comply with this policy
- during worship time pupils will:
 - be dignified and respectful of pupils of other faiths or none
 - be calm and reflective
 - behave in an appropriate manner
 - be quiet, thoughtful and attentive.
- treat others with respect.

We aspire for our children to participate in hymns, songs and prayers and through role play, drama, partner talk, occasionally plan and lead worship, and to raise issues that they have discussed in class.

Role of the Pupil Council

- discuss improvements to acts of worship

Organisation

The Education Reform Act states that collective worship need no longer be at the start of the school day, and worship may take place in a single act of worship or separate acts of worship in different age groups. There will be occasions when worship will take place in classrooms, conducted by class teachers. Any whole school worship will be recorded by elected pupils in our Worship Book, as a way of monitoring pupils' understanding.

Composition

Singing is a core component of collective worship.

Music – live/cd music should be played at the beginning and end of collective worship, which where possible, fits in with the theme for the week.

Hymns and songs should be chosen to reflect the theme for the week or the day.

Prayers – the children should be introduced to several prayers, including the Lord’s Prayer, which we expect them to learn. Children are taught how to pray through staff modelling and given the opportunity to say or write their own prayers.

Leader – the leader may be the headteacher, senior leaders, class teachers, pupils, Rector or others such as local church assembly teams.

Values – Holmer teaches Christian values for living, as suggested by <http://christianvaluesforschools.com/> and are to be the focus of our collective worship. A new value is introduced monthly. All of the school values covered can additionally be found on our school website.

Activities

In planning collective acts of worship, the following activities should be borne in mind:

- singing, readings and storytelling, rituals, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting speakers and food.

Planning the Year

When planning the year, in addition to sharing our values, the Coordinator needs to think carefully about the inclusion of the following:

- Saint Days
- Feasting for Festivals
- World Faiths
- National and world events

Involvement of Local Religious Groups

We believe that regular involvement of local church groups is beneficial to the spiritual development of pupils. Therefore, speakers from mainstream church groups will be invited to celebrate collective worship with us. An Open the Book team from Holmer Church, visit twice weekly to lead worship and engage the children in stories from the Bible.

Involvement of Others

We actively encourage the involvement of others to take part in our collective worship on a set theme.

Involvement of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers will be invited to attend school services for worship which is led by pupils in their own child’s class or for other special service such as Easter, Harvest etc.

Celebration Assemblies

The celebration assembly is an occasion for the whole school to share together the successes and achievements of individual pupils either in or out of school in the spirit of demonstrating the worth and value of each child of God. Awards recognising behaviours demonstrating key Christian Values and for academic/sporting/music success and success outside of school will be presented.

Raising Awareness of this Policy

- the School Prospectus
- the school website
- meetings with school personnel
- reports such as Headteacher reports to the Governing Body

Training

Periodic training will be organised for all school personnel so that they are kept up to date with new information and guidelines.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Coordinator and the Headteacher with any recommendations for improvement made to the governing body.

