



Worship and Spirituality Policy

Updated: Autumn 2020 by Lynne Williamson

Next Review: Autumn 2021.

At Hanley St Luke's our Mission is to:

- Promote Christian belief and practice, and to encourage the moral and spiritual development of all people in our school.
- Develop in each person a sense of self-worth, and the necessary qualities to become a full and valuable member of British society.
- Encourage the full potential of every child.

Our Vision

Jesus said 'I have come so that they might have life and have it to the full.'

Promoting life-long learning

Developing life-giving relationships

Exploring life-enhancing faith

Inspiring life-giving aspiration

Introduction

Collective Worship at Hanley St Luke's plays an important part in the life of our school.

It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience the living expression of Christian worship, underpins the values held by the school and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

Our daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of pupils
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings and with a variety of leaders, including their peers.

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from RE and worship but currently enjoy the full support of the whole school community.

At Hanley St Luke's, the spiritual dimension of life is expressed essentially through the Christian faith and through recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind. Pupil's individual spiritual

development is fostered throughout the curriculum, in particular in Religious Education and Collective Worship.

The spiritual boundaries in our school are determined by its Church Aided status. This provides a framework within Christianity and other religions, which adhere to similar values and principles and affirm the spiritual essence and vision of all religious experience. Nothing which dishonours the Anglican Foundation of the school will be considered appropriate to be included within the spiritual curriculum of the school.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To enhance the spiritual development and the response of pupils
- To foster reflection, prayer and stillness
- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity
- To affirm the Christian faith, the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God and the Christian status of the Holy Trinity
- To make sense of Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, make connections between these and their own lives and understand the impact they have on the Christian community and the world.

Implementation

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis as a whole school, as a Key Stage or as a class. Pupils, staff, clergy and other visitors will be involved in leading worship. All staff should help to develop a positive atmosphere in which to worship. There are opportunities for prayer at key times throughout the day (start, end and before lunch).

We have a worship group who help to plan and deliver worship events periodically both in school and to a local partner school; KS2 pupil increasingly also take ownership of class worship and all classes try to reflect on the impact of worship which are captured in class evaluation books.

The Worship Coordinator will produce a termly rota to include worship leaders and themes.

Collective worship will include:

A Christian starting point (E.g. text, picture, celebration, local/global event)

Opportunities for pupils to link the starting point to their own lives

Reflection on its impact in the Christian community and/or the world

Opportunities for prayer and worship through song.

Although it is essential to foster reflection, prayer and stillness it is also important to expose children to a rich variety of worship styles including music, art, story, song and dance.

Each classroom provides a distinct area for reflection and prayer that is appropriate to their age range.

The school subscribes to Big Start Assemblies and Fischy Music to support our delivery but also accesses a range of additional resources such as from <http://www.biblebasedassemblies.com> and <http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk> to name just two as well as staff's own ideas.

Aims of Spirituality

Spirituality is a difficult term to explain as it is such a personal concept. It is intangible but it concerns our own personal beliefs, our relationships with others and our impact on the world. It is developed through opportunities to encounter teachings, festivals, rituals and symbols of a variety

of faiths but the main driver will be through our Christian distinctiveness. They will be encouraged to respond to these encounters with a broad mindedness and an awareness of themselves and others.

At HSL our core school values are:

Honesty Courtesy Kindness Perseverance and Respect

but throughout our work we foster wider set of spiritual values such as:

- Love
- Hope
- Thankfulness
- Compassion
- Truthfulness
- Trust
- Justice
- Courage
- Service
- Generosity
- Friendship
- Forgiveness

Implementation

The whole school staff take responsibility for this area of experience and seek to promote spiritual development where possible. Staff model the value of Christian belief through their own behaviours and attitudes to others. They also guide the children through evaluating their meaning, purpose and direction in life.

In order to respond to the given experiences children need to acquire the following skills:

- Reflection
- Stilling
- Inner awareness
- Listening to others
- Questioning
- Communicating feelings
- Empathy for others

These skills will be developed across all areas of the curriculum, especially in Religious Education, worship and PSHE.

Equal Opportunities

We provide opportunities for all our children, regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or vulnerability.

British Values

Through RE, Worship and Spiritual Development we aim to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

As a Christian school we ensure the safeguarding, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and strengthen the barriers to extremism. Our children become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. Through our teaching and guidance we ensure pupils understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.