



**Leamington Hastings
Church of England
Academy**

Collective Worship Policy

Plant, Grow, Flourish

Updated:

May 2022

Review date:

May 2025

Vision and Ethos

Our vision as a Church of England Infant school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy children with enquiring minds. We support children to develop a spirit of curiosity and respect for themselves, others, and the environment which we live in so that they will have the skills and resilience to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

As part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust, we have a shared vision of 'Living life in all its fullness', educating for

- wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Our vision draws inspiration from the Parable of the Sower, which is found in the gospel of Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 in the New Testament, reflecting our local farming community.

A farmer sows seed in a field:

- Some seed falls on the paths, and the birds quickly eat it.
- Some seed falls where there are rocks, and not much soil. Plants grow quickly but soon the sun dries them. There is not enough soil and the plants die.
- Some seeds begin to grow in a place where there are too many weeds. The weeds stop the growth of the plants, and the plants die.
- But other seed falls on rich soil and receive everything they need so the plants flourish.

We strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots of learning behaviours, academic learning, rich experiences and Christian values to enable them to flourish in the love and grace of God. Within our community, our Christian school nurtures growth and supports all to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere, even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom. We aim that everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves, others and the environment in which we live.

Our mission, as a school with a religious character, is to provide an education of depth and quality in a Christian ethos which ensures the children and adults have the nurturing and aspirational environment to reach their full potential, living life in all its fullness. To realise our mission, we endeavour to live out our vision through our school motto:

Plant, Grow, Flourish

Christian Values are interwoven through our vision, mission and motto and are embedded throughout the curriculum with a particular focus given to:

- Respect
- Thankfulness
- Generosity
- Courage

- Forgiveness
- Truthfulness

Our school Learning Behaviours also link with our Christian Values, which are focussed on:

- Resilience and Perseverance
- Concentration
- Making links
- Making use of resources
- Teamwork
- Effort
- Making additions and revisions

MISSION STATEMENT

To instill a lifelong love of learning in a nurturing Christian community

We aim to:

- Confidently articulate, model and promote our Christian values, demonstrating the love and compassion of God for every person
- Work closely with the local church to further the understanding of Christianity
- Develop spiritual and emotional resilience
- Provide a nurturing environment that is caring and inclusive for all
- Provide a good depth and breadth of education, enabling all children to discover their unique talents
- Develop individuals with high aspirations for the future
- Work in partnership with the local community

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:

- To create an atmosphere of occasion and reverence, where those who wish to worship feel supported, and where others are brought into a meaningful encounter with something beyond themselves.
- To foster a sense of personal worship and collective fellowship, bringing the school community together.
- To introduce various aspects of religious worship to involve pupils and inspire everyone attending through a mixture of prayer, singing, music, drama, silent reflection, art, poetry and stories.
- To explicitly link our vision and values to scripture, and to help staff and children grow on their own spiritual journeys as we focus on those values.
- To celebrate the major Christian festivals.
- To offer opportunities for children and staff to develop the spiritual dimension of their lives.
- To celebrate all that is good about life, to foster feelings of gratitude and

courageous advocacy.

- To explore social, moral and ethical issues.
- To acknowledge and celebrate diversity in race and culture.
- To encourage pupils to adopt a reflective approach to life.
- To be inclusive, encouraging a sense of unity and identity.
- Whilst remaining true to our Christian identity, collective worship will also seek to be sensitive to those children whose traditions lie within other faiths or whose families have no overt faith.

ORGANISATION

The member of staff responsible for Collective Worship is Suzanne Marson.

In accordance with the law for all schools and academies, at Leamington Hastings we hold a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the diverse traditions of Christian belief and marking the cycle of the church's year. We strive to ensure that our acts of worship (or 'assemblies') are inspirational, invitational and inclusive for all members of our school community.

Worship is an important feature of the life of the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship but are urged to discuss the matter with the Head of School before making a decision to do so. Parents are invited to attend all end of year services at the church, any special services held in school and to celebration worship on a Friday afternoon.

Acts of worship are led by staff, children, clergy and invited visitors. Collective Worship is not RE although they can and should complement each other. The dedicated time for Collective Worship is twenty minutes per day.

Whole school worship takes place in our hall which has many other functions throughout the school day. To create an atmosphere of 'special time and sacred space', we give careful attention to:

- having a worship table which has a cloth to match the colours of the liturgical year;
- having a visual focus: candles, a cross, a plant, etc.;
- having a Bible on display;
- having carefully chosen music playing as we enter and leave the hall
- sometimes displaying a relevant picture, phrase or question on the screen to direct thinking and encourage reflection whilst waiting for worship to begin
- on occasions, having everyone entering and singing one of our well-known worship songs
- making references to the Big Frieze when reading something from the Bible
- expecting that everyone (children and adults alike) enters the hall in an intentionally reflective manner

- minimising interruptions from people walking through the hall during worship time
- lighting a candle together to signify that collective worship is about to begin

At Leamington Hastings we have developed a long term plan of themes for collective worship. However, we recognise that on occasions, best practice is to relate our worship to local, national or international events that are current and relevant to the children's lives.

Other types of Worship

The children in school contribute to leading an act of collective worship every half term, to celebrate and showcase their learning to the school and to their family members. This includes prayers and songs. These take place at the following times:

Autumn 1 – Harvest

Autumn 2 – Christmas

Spring 1 – Mother's Day

Spring 2 – Easter

Summer 1 – Father's Day

Summer 2 – End of year celebration

Once per term, our worship takes place in All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings. Services are held at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the year.

At times of other major festivals in the Christian calendar such as Harvest, Ash Wednesday, Ascension, Remembrance and Advent, our local Reverend delivers services within the school hall.

A typical weekly pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday– Whole school worship led by Reverend / church warden / Head of School – stories from the Bible / Key events in the Christian calendar

Tuesday – Whole school worship led by Head of School (Christian value theme)

Wednesday – Whole school worship led by Head of School (Christian value or Learning behaviour theme)

Thursday – Singing worship, led by RE lead

Friday – Celebration worship, whole school, led by Head of School, parents invited

Pupil involvement in planning and evaluating including Worship Group

- School Council team- There are regular child-led opportunities for planning, leading and evaluating whole school worship linked to the vision and values.
- 'Worship' team- There are also regular opportunities for child-led worship where they plan, deliver and evaluate worship regularly.

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship

In addition to the informal evaluations that take place every day, once a term a foundation governor will monitor the quality of Collective Worship.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

The staff and Governors at Leamington Hastings are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship. Our school worship aims to share what is meaningful and significant in our lives, sharing our common concerns and responsibilities, and developing positive attitudes and values. It affirms the equality and uniqueness of each individual in God's sight, whatever their gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right of withdrawal from collective worship in schools and this is recognised by the Church of England. Should any parent wish to exercise this option, please contact Suzanne Marson who will discuss this with you.