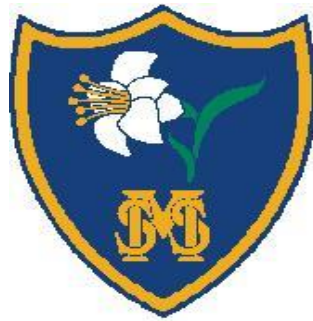


# **Haddenham St Mary's CE School**



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

We are a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Collective worship is an important part of the school day giving us the opportunity to come together as a school community, to be part of an experience that is special and separate from other activities. It gives everyone in the school community the opportunity to worship in a way which reflects the Anglican nature of the school. All students attend and staff and visitors to school are very welcome to join in.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To reinforce our theologically rooted Christian vision and help children understand its meaning through having faith that they can ‘sparkle like jewels’ under the guidance of Jesus and that his word will be a ‘lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path.’
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils in accordance with our school vision. This is achieved through various ways appropriate to the age and backgrounds of pupils
- To provide children with the opportunity to reflect individually on spiritual issues, collectively or as a silent time
- To value the beliefs of all the children. Other religions are included and local leaders are invited to lead worship
- To offer opportunities to worship
- To enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- To provide an opportunity to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- To support and underpin the Christian values of the school through shared worship
- To celebrate special occasions in the Church year and the life of the community as well as reflecting some practices and traditions of the local church
- To show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- To reflect the Anglican status of the school
- To enrich the life of the school spiritually through close relationships with the Churches Together Open the Book team and the ministry team at St. Mary's Church
- To give children the opportunity to plan and deliver collective worship.

### **Collective Worship at our school**

We hold a daily act of collective worship, as part of our whole school daily assembly. On the first Monday of each month collective worship takes the form of family worship in St Mary's church. Parents, other relations and carers are encouraged to attend. Church representatives also lead collective worship once a week in school.

Collective worship includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. Prayers include the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by pupils, and spontaneous prayer led by the children.

As the basis for Christian teaching, the Bible is read and discussed during collective worship. Songs are chosen to reflect Bible stories, themes and the school Bible verse.

Prayers are said in class before lunch older children regularly lead these. Each class has a quiet Prayer Corner for reflection, equipped with appropriate images, books, and other related resources. Collective worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes. The extensive outside space we have is also a place for quiet reflection.

### **Planning**

The Headteacher is responsible for planning the school theme each half term based on our Christian values and the theologically rooted Christian vision. The Headteacher ensures that collective worship takes place each day. Weekly themes are derived from the half term's theme. The various Christian festivals are celebrated and a Harvest festival, Nativity service and Easter service are held in St Mary's Church.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. Withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Headteacher and Governors monitor collective worship regularly.