



Worship Policy

Date agreed by LGB	Review Date	Signed Chair of LGB
November 2024	September '27 Reviewed Sept 25 just to take into account new worship resources, new spirituality time and Head, Hearts and Hands	

Huxley CE Primary CE Primary School
Policy for Collective Worship

Introduction

Huxley CE Primary School is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our Christian vision. At Huxley CE Primary School collective worship is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God and Christian values, both as individuals and together.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily ‘awe and wonder’ moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

Inclusive Invitational Inspiring
Collective Worship in Church of England Schools

Vision:

We nurture a school community where everyone can ‘aim high and embrace life in all its fullness’ and believe that ‘With God’s love, we can fly’

At Huxley CE Primary we aim:

- To know Jesus, Light of the World;
- To be the guiding light on the path of each child's learning journey;
- To light a love of learning and of life;
- For our children to become leading lights in our community and our world;

Why do we worship?

Faith means we believe in a God or Gods and for Christians we join together in an Act of Collective Worship to thank our God through our prayers and praise Him through songs. Worship is held daily; it is when we make time for God in our busy lives. We worship for at least 20 minutes every day. We want everyone to feel respectful and calm but relaxed and comfortable and welcome in God’s family. Collective worship should not be ‘done to’ but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils’ experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Collective worship is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.

At Huxley CE Primary Primary collective worship is:

- Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.
- Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

No assumption is made that we all have the same beliefs and values. Through Collective Worship, we blend Christian, Biblical teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, spiritually and intelligently.

We do this by following a weekly structure:

Day	Focus	What	Who?	Where?
Monday	In class worship (Full time pupils) Themed Worship		Miss Seddon	Classroom
Tuesday (or Wed)	Worship led by our vicar		Rev. Laura Rhodes	Hall

<p>Wednesday (sometimes Tuesday depending on when Rev. Laura is in)</p>	<p>A focus on Christian Values - Worship structure adapted from BigStartAssemblies -worship themes- 3 year plan</p>		<p>Rotation of Staff</p>	<p>Hall</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>Worship through Song- Exploring Lyrics and faith</p> <p>Finished with a celebration of our School Values in Action- Huxley High FiveRs</p>		<p>Mrs Gourley</p>	<p>Hall</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>In class worship (Full time pupils) Picture News Collective Worship</p>		<p>Mrs Arrowsmith</p>	<p>Classroom</p>

Legal Background:

We accept that: "All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship" unless "the parent . . . requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school" [1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)]

We acknowledge the parents' right to withdraw their children and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Any parent or carer can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of the school and is not an occasion for evangelism. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives. For our school: "The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England." Collective Worship at Huxley CE Primary is delivered in accordance with the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring.

Who worships?

Church schools are not just for Christians, children who follow a different faith, or no faith also come to our school and we all respect each other's ideas about our faith. Worship is invitational to all our children and staff.

Worship Aims:

Through our collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, and around the World: for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Who do we Worship?

Our God is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. These three parts of God are called the TRINITY. Every day our worship reminds us of this. Our three candles help us to remember the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Spirituality and Reflection

"Spirituality is about our relationships with ourselves, our family, friends, those around us, to God and to all of creation."

Prof. Ursula King

Spirituality is the way in which we combine our thoughts and emotions to reflect, respond to, and seek to give meaning and purpose to the experiences that we encounter in life.

The language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet in life things happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something 'beyond' the tangible.

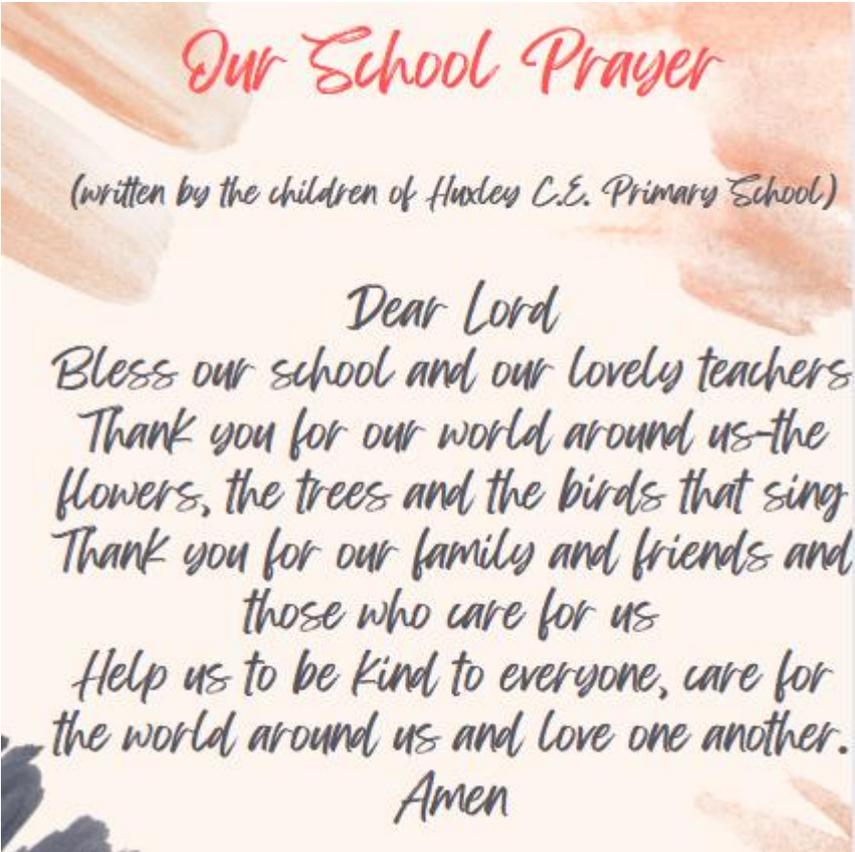
Update to policy September 2025- We have moved from Windows, Doors and Mirrors to Heart, Head and Hands model during worship but also to start to embed this over the year within lessons and across curriculum areas. We have also prioritised Spirituality by embedding a 15 minutes spirituality session each day into the timetable.

We have developed daily time for spirituality and have also developed the Spirituality Shed

Worship Structure:

Spirituality is woven through our collective worship but also daily lives. Our worship structure is one of Gather, Engage, Respond and Send

	Key Ideas	Worship at Huxley CE Primary
Gather	We come together as a community and prepare for worship.	<p>We come in quietly preparing for a time of reflection and contemplation. Children listen to the song linked to our value as we gather.</p> <p>The screen is used to share collective responses, words, images and videos used in worship.</p> <p>The worship leader opens the worship by welcoming everyone and candles are then lit for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit signalling that our worship has begun.</p>
Engage HEAD	<p>We engage in questions or themes considering how we live.</p> <p>Examples will be given to illustrate points and these will include biblical teaching.</p>	<p>The worship leader/s will pose a key question or theme. They will illustrate ideas and messages through sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bible stories - Music - Artwork - Drama - Questions - Video - Objects and artefacts

<p>Respond</p>	<p>We respond to the ideas and prompts shared considering what this means for how we live.</p>	<p>Children and adults may respond in a number of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Silence - Stillness - Written thoughts - Holding objects prompting thoughts - Song - Art - Drama
<p>HEART</p>	<p>We reflect on how this makes us feel</p>	<p>A key question, linked to how we will live, is always offered. E.g I wonder how we can be better friends? I wonder what we can do to help..?</p> <p>How does this make us feel?</p> <p>Our school prayer or a values prayer is always offered and children and adults say 'Amen' at the end if they wish if they wish to make the prayer their own.</p>  <p><i>Our School Prayer</i> (written by the children of Huxley C.E. Primary School)</p> <p>Dear Lord Bless our school and our lovely teachers Thank you for our world around us-the flowers, the trees and the birds that sing Thank you for our family and friends and those who care for us Help us to be kind to everyone, care for the world around us and love one another. Amen</p>

<p>Send HANDS</p>	<p>The worship leader reminds everyone of the purpose of worship – to impact the way we live today and in the future.</p> <p>What can we takeaway from today?</p>	<p>Worship Leader gathers some ideas of what we can take away from this worship- what can we do moving forwards- HANDS</p> <p>Candles are extinguished signaling the end of worship before and messages or notices are made.</p> <p>Quiet music may be played or silence maintained. This is modelled by staff.</p>
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Worship Table Our worship table serves as a visible focus for our worship. It reflects the churches teaching, our school vision and values and prompts to respond to this week’s worship theme.

The worship table includes:

- A Bible
- A Cross
- Three Candles -
- Liturgical Colour
- Thematic Artefacts.

OUTCOMES

Collective worship aims to equip adults and pupils with the ability to worship, to question and to reason and to reflect. We hope that our worship can help pupils develop their own value system, and enable them to make responsible, reasoned decisions on spiritual and moral matters. We want our pupils to adopt a sensitive, understanding and accepting view of beliefs differing from their own.

Mrs Rachel Gourley (Headteacher)

Reviewed November 2024

Version 2 Sept 2025