



Oxenhope Church of England
Primary School



Oxenhope Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Created By:	Date:	Next Review Date:
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School Vision

We provide the rich soil allowing children to flourish and develop deep roots. We nurture **growth**, enabling children to thrive as our Christian values blossom in their lives. We cultivate a sense of pride in our rural **community** where children are **loved** and valued.

May our children flourish in their youth like well-nurtured plants Psalm 144 v 12

Throughout our curriculum and school life, along with our school vision, these three golden strands permeate everything we do.

Community

Jesus often spoke of unity in our communities and encouraging one another on our journey. He spoke of bearing each other's burdens in love and helping those in need.

'Live in harmony with one another.' Romans 12 v 16



Love

It says in the Bible that God is Love and encompasses all that is loving and good. Jesus showed the ultimate unconditional love when he laid down his life for us on the cross. Therefore, this love should lead to a desire to love other people.

'Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us.' Ephesians 5 v 2



Growth

Just like a plant, we must endure the difficult times along with the good; but God has sent us his Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us so we can bear fruit and grow in the likeness of Christ.

'Grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' 2 Peter 3 v 18

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. *Psalm 100 v 4*

Rational

At Oxenhope CE Primary School, we believe in a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, which provides *each child* with a chance to flourish and achieve their potential by becoming successful, life-long learners who are able to enjoy life in all its fullness. Our Christian ethos, character and values pervade Oxenhope CE Primary ensuring the exceptional personal development and academic achievement of the whole child, as well as the overall 'well-being' of the school community. The school is wholehearted in its commitment, putting faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum.

Oxenhope is a Church of England Primary school. As such, it takes its responsibility to educate children in the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith very seriously. A Christian ethos is actively fostered in the school in relation to all aspects of school life; worship is seen as central to this process.

The 1988 Education Reform Act, modified by the Education Act (1993), requires all pupils in attendance at a maintained school "to take part in a daily act of collective worship" ERA Sections 6(1).

Aims of Collective Worship at Oxenhope

- To provide an opportunity for children to learn to pray and worship God.
- To help children to develop our Christian beliefs and values through Christ's example.
- To provide our pupils and staff with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To teach children how story, music, song, prayer, reflection, symbols, ritual and liturgical language assist us in worship.
- To celebrate all aspects of school life and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To promote the spiritual development of our children
- To develop a sense of community.
- To develop a safe space to share and articulate their own beliefs and opinions.
- To introduce children to the language and rituals of the Church of England
- To introduce children to the important festivals, holy days and celebrations of the major world religions.; Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish faiths.
- To celebrate and learn about cultural and religious diversity
- To provide an opportunity for collective celebration of success and key events in the life of the school.
- To develop children's social and emotional literacy (PSHCE materials)

Collective Worship Routines

A calendar of collective worship themes is organised by the collective worship lead for each school year. Teachers are asked to prepare and present collective worship in turn. The themes are drawn from:

- The church's year
- Bible stories and important Biblical characters and themes
- Christian values
- British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths.
- Festivals of other important worshipping communities; major world religions; Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Sikh, Hindu and Jewish.
- Significant world figures from the Christian faith eg. Martin Luther King
- Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (seal)
- Reflections on key ideas
- Talking assemblies / interactive

Organisation of Collective Worship

We participate in an act of Collective Worship every day led by a teacher or a visitor from a local church. Our Collective Worship is central to the life of the school. We hold a daily act of collective worship where the Reception – Y6 class teachers attend with their classes. All other adults are welcome to attend also. The Collective Worship plan also includes whole school worship occasions, when all adults attend and parents and carers are invited too.

The Head Teacher and teachers lead collective worship on a Monday and Thursday and Friday, and visitors lead worship on a Thursday.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Collective worship or Songs of Praise is held at 10:15 am and lasts approximately 15 minutes.

Tuesday

On Tuesday we have Reflection Time in classrooms which are more discussion based. The teacher is given a theme or a question to explore – Led by the Worship team in KS2 and the teachers in KS1. Each class has a box with the liturgy / candles / vision etc. needed for worship

Friday

Collective Celebration Worship is held at 14:30 for the KS2 and 9:00 for KS1. Children from each year group are chosen to receive a presentation or star of the week award. Parents of children receiving awards are invited to attend. We also announce the class attendance award and the house point award winner. The worship closes with

the school prayer. Each child is encouraged to think of something they can celebrate this week.

What happens during a Collective Worship?

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday collective Worship	
Role	Action
Technician	Technician has the music / song of the week playing and the PowerPoint (if needed) ready.
Greeter	'Welcome to worship' standing at the hall door. They then say 'please put your birds in the nest'
Welcomer	Welcomes the school and asks if there are any messages from the staff. 'Are there any messages? Please be seated.' They ensure bible, cross, candle and lighter are on the table. They also give out clipboards to the class of the week
Intercessor 1	Say the liturgy to start the worship God is love / all the time All the time / God is love May his peace, grace and mercy be with you / and also with you
Intercessor 2	Invite an adult to light the candle as you lead the school in liturgy In the name of the father, in the name of the son, in the name of the Holy Spirit Then say – This candle remind reminds us that where 2 or 3 are gathered in Jesus' name, the holy spirit will be with us
Collective Worship is delivered	
Reader	Reads the summary from the teacher that links to their worship. Standard reading summaries linked to Christian Vision and values if none prepared on the reverse of this sheet – See top of policy , below the vision
Prayer	Lead the school in 30 seconds of reflection / reflective music Say – Lets reflects on what we have and think about how it can impact our lives To find out if the teacher / visitor have prepared a prayer Say – If you wish to make this your own pray, say 'amen' at the end. If not, they are to invite children or adults to volunteer to lead a prayer. Prayer starter sheets available for prompting child.
Intercessor 3	To blow out the candle To say – Just as Jesus did, we continue our day providing service to others with kindness and compassion

Greeter	Please collect your birds
Music is played and the teacher sends class out	

- A story / drama / activity
- Time for reflection on the message of the collective worship
- The children are invited to join in prayers
- The Lord's Prayer is taught to children
- Discussion / talking assemblies

Worship Team

School has a collective worship council comprising of children from years 1 to 6.

Our thriving Worship Council in school work closely with the collective worship lead to develop all aspects of our school's work as a Church of England school.

The Worship Council have a number of key tasks to complete, which includes regularly planning and leading Collective Worship (both in school and in church) and Reflection times for the whole school, reviewing and evaluating Collective Worship and the impact of worship on learners and reviewing the impact of the school's vision and values.

They join by completing an application form.

As we have a Reflection area in each class room it is the job of the worship leader to ensure they are used and kept tidy and that collective worship evaluations take place.

We meet at least once every half term to discuss how things are going and the children make any changes they feel necessary.

Every week, a different year group is chosen to review collective worships and we review the feedback forms and discuss how improvements can be made.

The worship team also train up the next worship team for the following year.

Church Visitors

The ministers from Oxenhope St Mary's, Oxenhope Methodist Church and Hall Green Church Haworth regularly lead us in Collective Worship. (See Collective Worship plan). The Gideons also visit us in the last half term to give the Year 6 class a bible each.

Interfaith Visitors

We have annual visitors from the Islamic and Buddhist faiths who lead whole school assemblies and talk about what they believe.

Community Visitors

We have local farmers who are parents of the children come in to Collective Worship to share about the work they do. Representatives from after school clubs (including those run by parents) also share what they do and hold demonstrations.

Music and Performance in Collective Worship

'Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.' *Ephesians 5:19*

Music is an important part of our school. We sing in collective worship and also in our regular 'Songs of Praise' worship.

We use Words on Screen which gives us a rich variety of worship songs but we like to learn modern songs which the children can relate to and apply the meaning to their lives. Songs such as Stormzy – Blinded by your grace or Lauren Daigle – You Say have really captured the children's interest and they see that praise music is relevant. Singing is more joyous when it's topical, fun and relevant and the children like to create their own actions to songs. Hymns and songs are chosen to include:

- those designed for children with simple theology
- traditional hymns from the Anglican tradition
- choruses / worship songs which promote spirituality and devotion

Mrs Brown regularly plays the piano to support worship and the children are encouraged to participate in collective worship by playing their own instruments (when appropriate).

Each Christmas we have a KS1 nativity performance and also a separate Reception nativity where we celebrate the birth of Jesus through singing, acting and dancing.

Every Easter, Years 3 and 4 put on an Easter production depicting the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Harvest, Easter, Christmas and the Year 6 leavers service are all occasions where we gather to sing and Praise God in thanksgiving.

Our school choir enjoy singing collectively and we perform to the whole school on occasion.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

