



Mission Statement

To do everything we can to ensure that each child has the best education possible by providing excellence in teaching and learning

To inspire in all children a love of learning and the desire to continue to learn

To look after the safety and well-being of our children, in mind and body, by caring for each other and learning together

To uphold and promote Christian virtues and beliefs by maintaining daily acts of Christian worship and teaching Christian spiritual and moral values.

To respect other religions and cultures and foster good relationships within the community

To encourage good behaviour; to foster kindness and manners; and to help our children enjoy an organised, hardworking and disciplined approach to school and life.

School aims of worship

“The Church school offers a distinctive language for understanding life and interpreting human experience. As a community of faith, the Church school should, in its best expression, reflect the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can begin to discover who we are, why we are, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might be”

***(The Way Ahead: Church of England schools in the new millennium
Archbishop’s Council
2001)***

Worship in our school

The school holds a daily act of collective worship. Our acts of worship are planned in advance and reflect the Christian year. We acknowledge that Christians worship in a variety of ways and at Hampstead Parochial CE Primary School we recognise this diversity of practice.

The Theological Basis of Collective Worship

Our worship carries a flavour of the parish church and reflects wider Anglican traditions through the use of liturgical language, colours and seasonal worship songs.

We believe that through our worship children should be able to articulate answers to these three key questions: Who is Jesus Christ? What is the Church? What does it mean to be a Christian today? They may formulate these answers from within the Christian faith, or from the perspective of another faith or no faith.

Through use of the seasons of the Church’s year and our Christian Values the children experience a broad understanding of Christian beliefs and concepts allowing them to understand God as Father (harvest, creation, parenthood); God as Son (Christmas, Lent, Easter, parables and teachings); and God as Holy Spirit (Pentecost, the early Church, the lives of the saints).

The bible is used to inform and direct our Collective worship. Through careful planning children are introduced to a range of stories from the New Testament and Old Testament.

Age appropriate bibles are used to enrich stories and children often read aloud to the whole school.

The Weekly Pattern of Collective Worship

Monday worship is led by members of the senior leadership team.

Tuesday worship is where we celebrate achievement in the school from the past week. Headteacher's special mentions are given which include a celebration of children demonstrating our core Christian values.

Wednesday worship is led by our music teacher.

Thursday worship is led by a member of the clergy from St. John-at-Hampstead.

Friday worship is led by one of our class teachers. Once every term, each class leads an act of worship which celebrates their learning. Parents and carers are welcome and can join one another for tea and refreshments before the act of worship starts.

We also celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. Parents/ carers are invited to join us, either at school, or at our Parish Church; St John-at-Hampstead. These include the Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter and Harvest services as well as our Founders' Day in November. We also celebrate the start and end of the school year with a celebration in our Parish Church. On days when we attend worship in our Parish Church this worship is deemed to fulfil our collective worship requirement for the day.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

While Hampstead Parochial is a Church of England school, we are committed to respecting individual beliefs. Upon entrance to the school, parents/ carers are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching. It is therefore unlikely that parents/ carers would wish to exercise their legal right of withdrawal. However, should such a case arise, the parents/ carers concerned should consult the Head teacher.

We celebrate the cultural diversity of all the members of our school and have a cohesive community. Whilst collective worship will always reflect the Christian ethos of our school, we respect and acknowledge the variety of religious observances which are represented in our school and within the wider community. We acknowledge too that there are those of no faith who chose to be part of our school community.

The Key Elements of An Act of Worship

Year 6 monitors help to lead worship on a daily basis by setting up the hall: moving the table, getting songs and music ready and helping children to light the candle at the start of our act of worship. Children are very keen to be chosen for this role each year and value the leadership opportunities that it brings.

Gathering: Music is played as the children enter the hall to set this aside as a sacred time. A table is always on display in the hall with appropriate coloured embroidered cloths to reflect the season of the churches year. This table is moved in front of the stage as a focus for worship and a cross and candles are used. Children are greeted liturgically according to the season and the candles are lit. A song may be used from a wide repertoire to gather the community together.

Engagement and encouragement: Children are engaged through a Christian story, a visitor, or use of high-quality visual images. These reflect the current worship theme. Children are encouraged to offer their ideas and reflections.

Response: A range of responses are used including reflection and prayer. The children learn and say the Lord's Prayer.

Conclusion: Worship ends with a liturgical ending with a response which the children know and respond to clearly. When the clergy lead the worship there is a Trinitarian blessing.

Prayer

We believe that prayer should encompass the following:

P Praise

S Sorry – for the things done wrong by us and others

A Asking for things – for others and ourselves

L Listening – to God

M Meditating on the mystery of God and the wonder of Creation

We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It is corporate or individual and at its heart it is communication between a believer and God. Children are encouraged to write prayers and lead prayers in our church acts of worship. When a class leads an act of worship the children lead the school in prayer.

Spiritual and Moral Development

Spiritual and Moral Development is a life-long process and in the life of the children, is shared between parents/ carers, the school and the wider community. We acknowledge the wide variety of beliefs that make up our community; however our Policy reflects the Christian focus of our school. Therefore we seek to foster values and morals based on Christian teaching, which are also shared by the major world faiths. Key ideas and words that have been identified as being particularly appropriate when exploring spiritual and moral concepts and include the following:

- Life, birth, creation, death
- Sleep, refreshment, renewal
- Friendship, fidelity, love, passion, patience
- Imagination, inspiration, enlightenment
- Elation, delight, joy, gladness, laughter
- Sorrow, sadness, grief, reconciliation, forgiveness, self control
- Injustice, pain, suffering, anger, courage, shame, guilt
- Kindness, gratefulness
- Pity, compassion
- Wonder, awe, reverence, adoration
- Splendour, beauty, perfection
- Stillness, calm, peace, silence, tranquillity, harmony
- Light, darkness
- Eternity, mystery, infinity
- Hope, dream, fact, fantasy
- Insight, intuition, belief, faith, trust
- Truth, certainty, uncertainty, proof

Poems, stories, paintings, photographs, natural objects, and music are some of the ways that children can be encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective.

Resources

Resources for acts of worship are kept centrally. The resources are specifically chosen to deliver the relevant themes from the acts of worship overview. Class teachers may access these at any time to plan and prepare to lead an act of worship. The book 'Roots and Fruits' provides an excellent framework linked to many of the school's Christian values.

Planning for Worship

A worship planner informs members of staff of the themes for each week, the associated Christian value, suggested readings/resources and is agreed between the Head teacher and a member of the parish clergy.

Evaluation of Worship

Acts of worship are informally evaluated on a day to day basis through dialogue between members of the senior leadership team and the clergy. The Chair of Governors attends at least one act of worship each week and provides informal feedback on this to the headteacher. The school council leaders also have a responsibility to evaluate and feedback on collective worship. The themes of worship are evaluated annually by members of the clergy and the Headteacher. Parents attend at least one act of collective worship each term.

Eucharist and Confirmation

All children attend the Ash Wednesday service at church as part of the regular congregation when this holy day falls in term time. This involves them participating in a Eucharist.

Leavers

Each year, a special service for Leavers takes place. Leavers are invited to “tell their story” and are also presented with a Bible. They are reminded that the Church (as well as the school) will continue to be there for them in the years that lie ahead.

Rationale for Themes of Worship

Our acts of worship cover the following themes:

Autumn term

After a start of year service in Church we focus on Koinonia. We think about the communities we belong to from our school to our city, our country and our world.

Following the Autumn half term we focus on God’s Kingdom before moving into the season of Advent.

Spring term

We celebrate Epiphany in Church then focus throughout the term on the life and teaching of Jesus: focussing on his compassion for others. Important feasts in the life of Jesus are remembered including Candlemas and the Baptism of the Lord. During Lent we focus on the later part of Jesus’ ministry leading up to the passion and crucifixion of Jesus. Term ends with a whole-school reflective act of worship in or as near to Holy Week as possible.

Summer term

Term begins with an Easter celebration and the carrying of the paschal candle from church to school. In the first half of the Summer term we concentrate on the Resurrection appearances of Jesus, culminating in Ascension and Pentecost. The second half of the term has a dual focus. We look closely at responsibility and the ways in which Christians demonstrate responsibility in their lives. We also focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the saints.

Reviewed by Governing Body	Spring 2018		
Next Revision (Please highlight as appropriate)	Annual	Bi-annual	<u>Tri- annual</u>
To be reviewed	Spring 2021		