



Collective Worship at Upton Heath Church of England Primary School

School Values: Compassion, Courage, Responsibility

School Rules: Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful

At Upton Heath Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of our school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. Our collective worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring; it is welcoming and is based on our inclusive Christian principles and values emphasising **courage, compassion, respect, resilience, love, friendship, hope, joy, forgiveness, trust** and taking **responsibility**.

Worship helps us to:

- Praise and give thanks to God
- Reflect on the meaning and purpose of Christian life
- Focus on our Christian Values and Christian Character
- Develop meditation and reflection
- Learn and reflect on the life of Jesus and the peoples of the Bible
- Explore religious ideas
- Celebrate festivals
- Learn from the experiences of others
- Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos, shared values and reinforce positive attitudes and tolerance of others.

The Bible and wooden cross used at the beginning of every worship is a reminder of our strong Christian association. A candle is used as a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit throughout our worship. Links with Holy Ascension Church are strong and long established. We hold services in church at least six times a year for Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and end of term for our Y6 children. These services provide an opportunity for the children to not only lead worship but also come together with their parents and Reverend Paul. Reverend Paul comes into school every week to lead Worship. We also have strong links with the local Baptist Church who not only lead Worship once a week but also open their church for visits to exhibitions and to learn about Baptism.

Our Vision

Our **vision is to empower our children to become responsible, courageous and compassionate global citizens** who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

At Upton Heath C of E Primary School, we strive to **enrich lives** by providing a supportive and nurturing learning environment where every child is encouraged to **reach** their full potential and to “be the change they wish to see in the world.”

Our Vision is rooted in Jesus’s Parable of the Good Samaritan, which teaches us the importance of having **compassion** for others, whatever their background; the **courage** to act when others choose not to; and to take **responsibility** for our actions and their consequences.

At Upton Heath C of E Primary we aim to:

- Celebrate our children and motivate them with appropriate recognition
- Promote an environment that allows a focus on quality teaching and learning
- Create an enjoyable, safe and nurturing ethos that allows all individuals to develop spiritually, morally and socially and where all children can succeed.
- Promote courageous, compassionate and inclusive attitudes where individuals feel confident, secure, valued and respected by others.
- Actively promote children’s conduct in line with British values
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their actions

- Develop a successful and lasting partnership between home, school, Church and the wider community.

Legal Requirements

All schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship, either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Principal. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

Daily Worship is accessed by all children and led by a variety of stakeholders with different experiences. Half termly themes provide focus and continuity. A two-year collective worship plan is in place based on Christian values and linked to the Roots and Fruits programme. This is also linked to RRS, British values, and the children's personal development ensuring continuity of learning and appropriate links are being made. All children are given the opportunity to explore what worship is and to deepen their understanding and experience of worship.

It follows a structure across the week;

Monday– delivered to the whole school and led by either the Principal or Vice-Principal, focussing on a particular quote or story from the Bible that illustrates an element of the particular Christian value for that half-term;

Tuesday – delivered to a Key Stage and led by a group of volunteers from the local Baptist Church;

Wednesday- delivered to a Key Stage and led by Rev Paul from our school church- Holy Ascension leads; this follows on from the worship on Monday;

Thursday- delivered to the whole school and led by a teacher supporting the children to learn hymns and inspirational songs that are sung in worship;

Friday- delivered to the whole school and led by a member of SLT, where we celebrate individual and group successes.

We ensure our collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring by offering (without compulsion) to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, music and singing, worship and reflection. There are opportunities to explore the differences in worship that some Christians experience. The school provides opportunities for the children to encounter the teachings of Jesus through the Bible, as well as exploring how faith is relevant in today's world.

Each act of worship includes a song, a story/poem/picture/factual account/youtube clip which generates discussion with the children, and a prayer. Music is played at the beginning and end of worship. During collective worship, we use the symbol of a window- to look out at the world and discover; a mirror to reflect on what we discover and a door to explore the opportunities to respond to what has been learnt.

Children are encouraged to take an active part in all collective worship eg: sharing reflection, leading prayers, leading responses, delivering information, talking about own life experiences, reading aloud, asking and responding to questions.

During the year, worships are also led by our children highlighting Christian Festivals and important dates in the National and International 'calendar' such as Remembrance Day in school and then in Holy Ascension Church for parents. We believe it is important that Worship is planned and delivered by a variety of people to provide a holistic view of the Bible, spirituality and the impact on how we can live our 'live in all its fullness' John 10:10.

The act of collective worship lasts around 15-20 minutes.

Class/Year Worship

Either on Tuesday or Wednesday, worship takes place in classrooms led by either the teacher and/or the children. Resources such as Rights Respecting School, DBE acts of worship and Picture News are used to provide the opportunity to explore what worship is and to deepen their understanding of their sense of belonging and their own spirituality. The class/year-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE quests.

Prayer and Reflection

Daily collective worship, linked by themes, supports the children in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian, and offers opportunity for prayers and reflection. As mentioned above our collective worship timetable supports the children in their developing understanding of a range of Christian values. A range of prayers is used including our school prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Prayers are also said during the day at lunchtime and before the end of the day. Each worship includes a time for personal and collective reflection through prayer opportunities and quiet times. Reflection and response times are regularly used in classes, in a variety of forms. As part of the Year 6 legacy in June 2023, the children created a Prayer Tree which hangs in a communal space so prayers can be put on the tree by children and staff when appropriate to them.

