



## Hustwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation

### Policy for Collective Worship

Chair of Local Committee:	Mr Stephen Brough
Executive Headteacher Approval:	Miss Fiona Bennett
Members of Staff Responsible:	Mr Richard Chapman Mrs Emma Sowray
Statutory / Non Statutory:	Statutory

#### Our Vision



'Growing together in love and learning'



#### 'Sowing Seeds – Bearing Fruit – Harvesting Potential'

At the Hustwaite and Sessay CE Primary Federation our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their full potential, so that they can make their best contribution to society.

The Federation is a family where:

- everybody is welcomed and you are not alone
- we pray together
- we are honest, open and respect and care for everyone and everything in our unique and rural community.

As a Federation we encourage a growth mindset, set high standards of learning and celebrate the achievements of every child within our exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is based upon our Christian values. It is inclusive and through inquisitive and creative minds our children develop their self-confidence as learners and are encouraged to progress socially, emotionally and spiritually.

The Federation is a place where **everyone** is different and **everyone** is important.

"Teach a child to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it." (Proverbs 22:6)

### Our School Mission Statement

At the Husthwaite and Sessay CE Federation we are committed to providing an inclusive, stimulating education based upon Christian values by encouraging children to ask questions and develop enquiring and creative minds. We endeavour to establish a trusting relationship between children and staff, trying wherever possible to make school an extension of home and the community within a sustainable environment.

“The act of collective worship fulfils many functions in the life of a primary school – it’s a time for collective singing, an opportunity to celebrate individual or collective success or achievement, a ‘noticeboard’ for forthcoming events. Above all it gives the whole school the chance simply to come together and meet as a unified group. The essence of the coming together is undoubtedly the sharing of a common experience, very often built around a core religious or moral theme.”

Alan Clark – Collective Worship Unwrapped

### Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our schools, reaffirms our vision and associated values.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

As a Federation we encourage a growth mindset, set high standards of learning and celebrate the achievements of every child within our exciting, broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is based upon our Christian values. It is inclusive and through inquisitive and creative minds our children develop their self-confidence as learners and are encouraged to progress socially, emotionally and spiritually.

The Federation is a place where **everyone** is different and **everyone** is important.

“Teach a child to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship in our schools takes place daily in accordance with current legislative requirements.

Collective Worship are led by the teaching staff and special visitors e.g. The ‘Open the Book’ volunteers and local clergy. Teaching staff are always present.

Therefore, Collective Worship at the Husthwaite and Sessay Federation is planned to:

- Be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- Will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools’ core Christian values
- Will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- Will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness.
- Will contribute significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”
- Will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

### **Planning Collective Worship**

We recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by gathering together, lighting a candle and using our welcome words.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4- stage structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. Worship-planning is shared amongst staff and regular visitors who lead worship. This provides an opportunity once a half term to review and evaluate the last half terms Acts of Collective Worship and to have an input on the planned themes for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through pupil voice sessions. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Rev. David Biggs, one of the schools' governors, has a role monitoring Collective worship through membership of the ethos committee at the school.

Many of our Assemblies use 'Out of the Box Worship' or 'Roots and Fruits' as a basis for our worship. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by R. Chapman (Husthwaite) and E. Sowray (Sessay).

### **Our pattern of Collective Worship:**

#### **Husthwaite:**

Day	Who?	Led by
Monday	Whole School	Class Teachers
Tuesday	Whole School	Class Teachers
Wednesday	Whole School	Class Teachers
Thursday	Whole School	Open the Book/Luc Wilshaw/Rev'd. Katie
Friday	Whole School Celebration Collective Worship	SLT

#### **Sessay:**

Day	Who?	Led by
Monday	Whole School	Class Teachers
Tuesday	Whole School	Class Teacher + 2 sessions per half term are Open the Book.
Wednesday	Whole School	Class Teachers
Thursday	In Key Stages	Class Teachers
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship	SLT

Pupils have the opportunity within each worship to lead elements, such as the prayer. The children also lead workshops of festivals and occasions as well as based on the assembly theme through whole school Collective Workshops.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools' vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

### **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship: parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

In accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy all children are given full access to the curriculum. Staff help all children to reach their full potential irrespective of race, gender, age or ability.

Children enter and leave the place of collective worship to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and be attentive. The school always has a hymn and a prayer.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter the school has special celebrations to which parents and members of the wider community are invited. Each school has strong links with its local church (St Cuthbert's and St Nicholas') and visits for services and special occasions.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors. All who deliver worship will be observed regularly. Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Co-ordinator for Collective Worship: Mrs Sowray (Sessay) and Mr Chapman (Husthwaite)  
Church contact leads: Rev'd. David Biggs (Sessay) and Rev'd. Katie Franks (Husthwaite).