



Hey with Zion Church of England & Methodist Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Written by:	Mrs S Machin December 2025
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Next Review Date:	Summer 2028

Hey with Zion has a joint Church of England and Methodist Foundation.

The values of LOVE, HOPE and ASPIRE alongside British Values (democracy, mutual respect, tolerance, individual liberty and the rule of law), permeate the school's ethos.

We are a loving, inclusive family, rooted in our Christian Values and nurturing ethos. We provide a positive learning environment where all children can achieve their full potential.

Hey with Zion's Vision Statement

**Jesus said, " I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10 verse 10**

Within the love of God, we aspire to do the best we can for ourselves and others.

Our Mission:

Hey with Zion is a family in which everything we do is built upon our Christian values and ethos. We endeavour to create a place where everyone feels they belong, they are happy, nurtured, safe and valued.

Our mission is to:

- Kindle a love of learning for all children; enabling them to develop creative, inquiring minds and achieve high personal success through an excellent and enjoyable curriculum.
- Develop individuals to have self-knowledge to sustain a happy and healthy lifestyle filled with awe and wonder.
- Develop positive attitudes and behaviours and encourage children to form caring relationships as active citizens in the local and wider world.
- Enable our children to make right choices and take safe actions within their life experiences.
- Through challenge and high expectation prepare our children to reach their full potential by teaching academic and life-skills

Epworth Education Trust Mission Statement

The Epworth Education Trust is a multi-School Trust established with the aim of providing outstanding learning and opportunities for the children within its care.

Children are our nation's most precious resource. Their school life and learning experience will shape them for the whole of their lives

Safeguarding Statement:

At the Hey with Zion we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and Local Advisory Board.

Our core Christian Values at Hey with Zion Church of England and Methodist Primary School believes that to facilitate teaching and learning, acceptable behaviour must be demonstrated in all aspects of school life. We base our behaviour approaches on clear, specific expectations which can be seen in our School Rules, Habits for Learning and underpinned by our Christian values. This unique approach is bespoke to our school in line with how we 'do all we can' to support pupil development.

Collective Worship Policy

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

2. Policy Aims

Collective Worship at Hey with Zion aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.

- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm everyone's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Promote a growth mindset and support all pupils in their own wellbeing.

3. Definition of Collective Worship

3.1. For this policy, **“collective worship”** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

3.2. To **“take part”** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

4. Organisation and Planning

4.1. The headteacher is responsible for creating the Long-Term Plan for collective worship.

4.2. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes of the school day in the school hall for 4 days a week. The fifth weekly worship is held in class and children participate in a whole Trust worship with children leading this via a film from one of the eleven schools in the Trust.

4.3. Each worship session held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher in conjunction with the Trust.

4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

4.5. The headteacher will establish a detailed plan for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to

ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

4.6. The school will endeavour to teach the pupils a wide range of worship songs to sing during collective worship.

4.7. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, on the theme.

4.8. Joint church services are held in school with input from the Methodist, Church of England and the Catholic Church. All parents and carers as well as local community and congregations are welcome.

5. Weekly Collective Worship Programme

5.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. Pupils in early years take part in Wiggle Worship within their classrooms. On Thursday afternoon the parents and carers of the early years children can celebrate good work and join in with the worship.

The current schedule for Collective Worship is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	Headteacher leads on collective worship in the hall with all year groups.
Tuesday	Class led collective worship with Deputy or Headteacher. Worship in the hall with all year groups. Parents of the class invited.
Wednesday	Clergy led collective worship x3 out of 4 weeks. With John Wilkinson on piano.
Thursday	Headteacher leads on 'Celebration' Worship in the hall with all year groups. Parents invited.

Friday

Epworth Worship Together video in class.

5.2. Each class will present whole school worships during the school year where parents/carers are invited to attend. These are linked to our weekly theme and our values of Love Hope and Aspire.

6. Implementation

6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Involving children from the start with call and response. Prefects and children from Ethos Committee will lead prayers, drama and read from the Bible.

There is also a moment to encourage peace and stillness with a meditation using Psalm 46.10.



- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs. This includes completion of feedback sheets after worships to gather information on the impact of what they have heard and seen. Reflections are collected in a big book to also show impact.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
Prayer Net – a ribbon is tied to the net for each prayer shared. The aim is to focus the children's minds.
Prayer Bear – a child is chosen to hold the bear during each prayer shared – again to focus children's minds.

- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, dance, drama, poetry etc.
- The development of the language of spirituality is based on Paul Rusby's 'looking up', 'looking out' and 'looking in'.
- Reflection areas in class also support children's spirituality and reflections. Areas contain questions to prompt children's thinking such as 'What makes your spirit shine?'

7. Right to withdraw

7.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

7.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, nondenominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

- 8.1. The school will consider pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.
- 8.2. Where appropriate, children with complex SEND will access worship with staff in classrooms using Wiggle Worship.
- 8.3. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

9. Monitoring and review

- 9.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.
- 9.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires, pupil voice and class discussions.
- 9.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 9.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is September 2028.