



Christ Church CE Primary School

"Let your light shine."

Collective worship Policy

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship **and explore their own spirituality.**

Policy statement

At Christ Church, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and the Christian ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision statement.

Our School Vision – "Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

We work in partnership with home and Church to serve and nurture all adults and children in our care. Our Christian ethos and values are at the heart of everything we do, enabling our community to reach their full potential and flourish for 'life in all its fullness.'

It is a time when we all come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Our vision, **'Let your light shine,'** embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children, so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence, giving them an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. Our Christian ethos and values are shared with all stakeholders in regular communication with home and school, via our school website and in vibrant displays around the school to enable children to immerse themselves in a shared understanding of learning, attitudes and behaviour.

Christian Values

As part of our work with the children we identify the core values of **kindness, faith, fairness, achievement and teamwork**. Through our core values, we deepen our understanding of wisdom, hope, dignity, community, perseverance and forgiveness. They permeate our vision for our school and shape the aspirations we have for our children.

Legal requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states that the need for each child to attend daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading or taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children.

Our current schedule is as follows:

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| Monday | Whole school worship led by the Head teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). |
| Tuesday | Whole school Music practice, with prayer and reflection time, led by Mrs Shippey or Mrs Coomber. |
| Wednesday | Class worship led by teachers. Each teacher shares a story about a Bible Character , discusses a key question and allows time for reflection. Planned by RE/Worship coordinator - Mrs Voyle |
| Thursday | Whole school Worship, led by visiting Clergy from a variety of denominations. |
| Friday | Whole school celebration service led by Headteacher or SLT. |

The Services should last approximately 15 minutes.

Prayer and reflection

Collective worship always **begins with our welcome words and then includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. This is also the same for singing practice.** A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, our school prayer and prayers written by children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet reflection. At the beginning of the whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles or a visual focus for the children on the theme of creation. A cross, praying hand or other Christian symbols are displayed on the table.

At the beginning of Lunchtime **and at the end of the day**, grace is said by all members of the school.

Children share their own prayers during whole school Celebration Service each Friday.

There are strong links between the school and the local Parish church and services are held regularly in the church by the school and the school community are invited for special services at the church throughout the year.

The Foundation governors meet on the Sunday before each Local Governing Body meeting to pray for the school community.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept detailing our 3 year worship plan. Training is available for those who wish to lead acts of worship via the Diocese or through in-school coaching.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Christ Church School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. Christ Church Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/ Governors/ Diocesan Liaison and Local Community issues

Children may be withdrawn from Collective Worship at the wish of the parents. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

Governors play a vital role in the school and collective worship.

RE coordinator and Link Governors liaise to discuss various aspects of RE and ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal opportunities and Special educational needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate learning opportunities to support their understanding of RE. At each key stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

The **headteacher** will ensure that:

- The governing body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship
- A daily act of collective worship is provided
- Alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship.

All **staff** are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

The **governing body** will consider before approving the arrangements for collective worship, and any requests for exceptions.

The **KMAT** will consider their expectations in the monitoring and contributions made to the school and its worship arrangements.

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Dated:

September 2023