

CHRIST CHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**



INTRODUCTION

Collective worship is for all pupils at Christ Church C.E Primary School. It usually forms part of an assembly or its entirety.

Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community.

Collective worship is a part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

Collective worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing, underpinning the spiritual and moral education being given to children.
- Fosters a sense of fellowship by bringing the school community together.
- Offers children the opportunity to worship and creates an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
- Encourages a reflective approach to life.
- Develops a sense of self worth and value whilst fostering the ability to consider questions for which there are no set answers.
- Introduces children to aspects of religious worship and faith
- Encourages children to express their responses in a variety of ways
- Encourages children to recognise the place of a Christian faith in the life of people, particularly in the context of a church school.
- Helps children to develop a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework. Also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.

It should also:

- Affirm some value of ultimate worth, which for some, will be God.
- Celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and other ways.
- Respond collectively and individually through statements of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.

OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Christ Church C.E Primary we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together. It involves a sharing of individual experiences about living and responding to the world around. Collective worship should be active, meaningful and seen as a special focus of the school day.

In line with the **1988 Education Reform Act**, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we usually base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian

Church. This also reflects our status as a church school. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian based, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religions by, for example, celebrating certain festivals. We recognise that many themes covered are common to a number of faiths.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship takes place each day. The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, staff, children, Revd Williams or visiting clergy conduct acts of Collective Worship. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Monday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the school staff, Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher at 1.00pm

Tuesday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by the clergy or a visitor at 1.00pm

Wednesday: Class Worship conducted by the children, who sign up to lead at 1pm.

Thursday: Whole school Collective Worship usually led by staff at 2.50pm

Friday: Good News Assembly (including an act of Collective Worship) at 2.45pm with all staff and parents, led by a class in turn

- There are also special celebrations during the year, where a specified class or whole school leads the collective worship. These are held in the Church where possible or school hall and parents are invited.
- Some acts of worship involve the wider community where an outside speaker comes to highlight projects, needs and activities in which we may take part.
- The principles of collective worship are extended through children saying grace at lunchtime and a prayer at the end of the day from their class prayer books.
- Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical demonstration of the way home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

CONTENT

We take the weekly theme of our Collective Worship and develop this. These themes tie together traditions of the Christian faith, Bible stories and wider school SEAL themes. Sessions, may on occasions, be planned to respond to events within school, or to a particular news item as it arises.

At the end of each act of Collective Worship, the theme, story and hymn or song used will be noted in a record book. This will ensure that we provide a balanced range of experiences and stimuli for the children. Feedback is used to make any

changes for the following year.

We have a prayer tree where children, staff, visitors and other members of our community can leave prayers. These prayers are then taken to Christ Church Parish Church for inclusion in services where appropriate. Members of staff may also include these prayers in our daily acts of Collective Worship. Prayers placed in 'apples' (or other similar) are considered to be private and are not shared. The Collective Worship co-ordinator monitors the prayer tree and will take the necessary action if children leave prayers that cause concern.

Collective Worship and Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Christ Church C.E Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The staff and Governors at Christ Church C.E Primary School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship. Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical and mental ability – 'every child of God matters everywhere'.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however parents have the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right will be invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher.

Children who are withdrawn from collective worship will be supervised, however no other form of religious instruction or worship will be offered.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from worship, but it is hoped that teachers will support Christ Church C.E Primary School as a Church of England V.C school and in so doing participate in school collective worship.

Staff and pupils share together in worship in order to support the promotion of Christian values. This is discussed at interview.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest demonstrated.

Classroom feedback from pupils

Staff and Parent's comments

Observations of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.

Feedback via School Council and/or other groups.

It is the role of the foundation governors with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Specifically, the 3 foundation governors will:

- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship
- Provide liaison between school and church
- Build relationships with pupils to enable them to articulate the value of being part of a Church School
- Support the implementation of the school mission and aims statement.

Co-ordinator(s): Simone Bennett and Katy Herbert
Spring 2014-15