



Christ Church C of E (VA) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Christ Church is a Church school which follows Christian values. We warmly welcome any children from our local community whose parents or carers want an outstanding education within a caring, nurturing atmosphere based on Christian Values. 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 and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Rationale

Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school, in accordance with our Anglican foundation. As a Christian community, we promote a growing appreciation of the Christian way of life and of religious belief. Children are helped to develop personal and moral values, to show respect for other people and their way of life and an awareness and appreciation of the wonderful world we have been given to live in and care for. It is an opportunity to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

Aims

The Worship is central to our school day here at Christ Church. It is a special time where we can listen, think, participate and enjoy being one of God's children.

It aims to give pupils and school staff alike the opportunity to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- To promote a common ethos with shared values to reinforced positive attitudes.
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respect individuality and celebrate diversity;
- To provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection.
- To celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, the local and international community and occasions of significance including festivals.
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of Christ Church C of E Primary is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent has the right to withdraw their child from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do this will need to make a written request to the Head Teacher and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, which forms part of each assembly. We meet as a whole school every day.

Monday – Whole School Collective Worship. This 'sets the scene' for the rest of the week and introduces the theme for the week.

Tuesday – Whole School /House assembly.

Wednesday - Hymn Practice/Collective worship- led by Teacher..

Thursday – Whole school goes across to Church for Collective Worship. If weather is bad, clergy come across to school to lead the Collective Worship.

Friday – Whole School Celebration/Collective worship- Linked with weekly theme where possible eg showing care and compassion. Awards for writing, good work etc are also shared. Class assemblies make take place here.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Themes

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

The themes also reflect our chosen Christian Values – Respect, Compassion, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust. Topics also link with our PSHE school curriculum or may

reflect important times in the year eg. Remembrance Day. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes which form part of an adaptable annual cycle. We feel that it is important that our themes are shared with the Clergy at Christ Church so they can continue to develop the knowledge and understanding of the children.

We use the Church of England's Values for Life Resource to support the planning of assemblies. Themes for assemblies are planned by the Headteacher in discussion with the Senior Leadership Team.

Our Celebration Assembly on a Friday especially reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. 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. Our motto 'Let Your Light Shine' was chosen by the school community and reflects the ethos. Christ Church C of E Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We welcome the input of visitors to our Collective Worship eg Barnabas or local clergy and church members. Children are encouraged to take an active part in assemblies eg pupils may act out Bible stories or read prayers. On occasions we invite parents to assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents are invited to join us at Church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. At the end of the year, parents join us for our end of year Eucharist. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Recording and Evaluation

Acts of Worship are evaluated in terms of children's responses which are given by pupils once a term. Evaluation sheets are used to record children's reflections on the worship and their potential actions as a result of their understanding of the topic.

A Collective Worship Group meets with Mrs Taylor (Head teacher) to improve and enhance our worship. They also plan and take part in assemblies. The Head teacher, who is also the Collective Worship leader, collates all these responses and feeds back to staff and children.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship

Collective Worship will be monitored by discussion at staff and governor meetings. This discussion will include review of content and methodology, suitability for age and ability of children and links to curriculum.

June 2017