



CHRIST CHURCH CE INFANT SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date last Reviewed: Summer 2018
Date of Review: Summer 2019



This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission, Vision and Values Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of the school, valuing all children equally. It places collective worship at the centre of school life.

Collective worship is not another name for an assembly. An assembly is secular whilst collective worship gives worth to a divine being. Collective worship may cater for a mixed faith or denominational community unlike corporate worship, as in a church.

Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues, and to explore their own beliefs. In addition, collective worship should encourage participation and response – whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship, through listening to and joining in the worship offered – and develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, while reinforcing positive attitudes.

Aims:

- To worship God
- To develop the prayer life of the school
- To reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on pupils' own beliefs
- Support pupils in their development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives
- To provide some experience & understanding of what Christian worship is
- To strengthen the sense of community and to recognise the worth of the educational work of the school
- To strengthen the links to Christ Church and develop a community of faith
- To affirm the values, foundations and faith of the school.

Legal Requirements

1. All pupils should take part in daily collective worship (parents have the right to withdraw their child)
2. The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body in consultation with the Head of School
3. The worship will be wholly Christian but will allow pupils to participate to the extent which is appropriate for them.

Management

The RE subject leader is responsible for:

- writing and reviewing the school policy on a regular basis
- ensuring all staff are aware of and use the policy document
- involving colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship
- advising on planning, ideas and resources
- administering the budget for collective worship
- ensuring suitable resources are up to date, relevant and available
- monitoring and evaluating collective worship in all its forms
- arranging INSET as appropriate
- keeping up to date with new developments and publications

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- ensuring the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed
- ensuring the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored
- engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The Head of School is responsible for:

- managing the worship on a day-to-day basis
- planning an overall balanced programme of worship for the year
- drawing up assembly rotas
- ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with
- meeting with members of Christ Church to plan their effective involvement
- liaising with clergy, diocese and governing body on matters relating to collective worship.

Organisation of collective worship

1. Collective worship can take place at any time of the day
Each class has an Assembly box containing a cross, candles and various appropriate books of stories for use during Classroom Collective Worship. Teachers may add to this box suitable items that they may find useful e.g. childrens' Bibles, poetry books, song books, tapes and a cloth. Each class is encouraged to set up a reflective area/table as a focus for the Worship time
2. It can be organised for separate classes, year groups or for the whole school
3. Collective worship can take place outside the school premises on special occasions at the discretion of the governors

4. It can be led by various people and groups, e.g. staff, children, clergy, members of Christ Church such as the children's worker, governors, Faith Awareness in Children Trust (FACT) and parents
5. The Head of School will be responsible for informing visitors of the pattern and nature of the school's worship.

Great sensitivity is required by the leader of the worship to be inclusive in style, but to allow the individual to participate as fully as they feel comfortable – to listen and reflect, if necessary.

Themes will be set for each term based on Christian values, R.E. units of work, bible stories and incorporating special feast days and liturgical celebrations. The ingredients for worship can be found in the Guildford Diocesan Guidelines for Collective Worship, "God at the Centre" (2007) and in the attached appendix entitled The Elements of Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head of School, the Christian Distinctiveness governor and the RE subject leader through:

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- Observation of children's involvement, attentiveness and level of interest
- Classroom feedback from children, both written and verbal
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors
- Self evaluation.

APPENDIX

The Elements of Worship

- a). Music Hymns and songs: a good range of traditional and new, always including a good balance of words which refer to God
For atmosphere - at the start or finish
- for thinking or prayer
- behind a mime
- behind slides
- b). Prayers A balance of prayers expressing:
Praise, thanksgiving, confession and petition

Drawn from:
Traditional sources - Lord's Prayer
Grace etc.
Forms of service - e.g. responses "The Lord is here...."

Children's collections
Children's writing

In style:
Responsorial, meditative, extemporary, silent
- c). Bible Reading Presented by a well-prepared reader:
In drama
In audio-visual aids
Giving the reading appropriate status and significance
- d). Story The Christian story retold in terms of:
The Bible
The Church
Individual lives
Today's Christians
Everyday stories with implicit teaching
- e). Symbol The considered preparation of the environment for worship, whether in hall or classroom, church or open air
The possible choice of a central focus of the worship: a person / a picture / a cross / a rock / a colour / a candle / music etc.
- f). The Style The leader portrays the message that the occasion is important, through their personal presentation and manner -
at times serious / joyful / reverent / exciting / challenging
the establishment of simple rituals appropriate to the age of the children to create a sense of belonging and value.
e.g. birthdays, welcomes, farewells, the beginning and the end of worship.

The Content of Worship

The Christian Church offers a fund of materials:

- The festivals and seasons of the Church Year
- The wide varieties of traditions in music and prayer
- The use of story and symbolism
- The full breadth of Biblical teaching

In addition:

- The community, the nation and the world offer many opportunities for celebration or reflection
- Events in school, the sharing of the lives and work of individuals and class groups
- The exploration of life's meaning and purpose

The quality of the collective worship can be enhanced through attention to the following:

- Atmosphere - music
- Varying styles
- Use of varied resources, pictures and other artefacts
- Other strategies include using silence, using children to say prayers or substituting a hymn practice which has some worshipful content, e.g. a prayer, quiet time, explanation or interpretation of a hymn.