



# Collective Worship Policy



*'We are all one in Christ Jesus' Galatians 3-28*

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the head teacher, collective worship co-ordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

**The Place and Contribution of Collective Worship at Christ Church Primary.**

Christ Church C of E Primary is a VA Church of England Primary. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils and aims to include, invite and inspire our pupils.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and represents the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of worship in our school, it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of *Eid ul fitr*, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.



At Christ Church C of E Primary School Collective Worship offers a space to all and explores the following:

Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to think about God</li> <li>to make a response to God</li> <li>to explore a relationship with God</li> <li>to enjoy being in the presence of God</li> <li>to contemplate the awesomeness of God</li> <li>to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God</li> <li>to listen to God</li> <li>to get a sense of things unseen</li> <li>to explore personal belief</li> <li>to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together</li> <li>to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them</li> <li>to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture</li> <li>to wonder</li> <li>to gain inspiration</li> <li>to receive a challenge to live differently</li> <li>to rejoice in being unique and precious</li> </ul>
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism</li> <li>to learn about the faith of the local church community</li> <li>to participate in marking important features of the church calendar</li> <li>to explore the Christian values of the school including Care, Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Sensitivity and Trust</li> <li>to use stillness and quietness</li> <li>to have a quiet moment in a busy day</li> <li>to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements</li> <li>to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum</li> </ul>

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

Inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... whatever their age, aptitude or background</li> <li>... where the integrity of each is respected</li> <li>... enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs</li> <li>... sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community</li> </ul>
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## The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily usually at Christ Church C of E Primary School. It follows the pattern here:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time	9.00 & 9:40	9.00 & 9:40	9.00 & 9:40	9.00 & 9:40	9.00 & 9:40
Group	KS2 & KS1	KS2 & KS1	KS2 & KS1	KS2 & KS1	EYFS, KS1, KS2
Style	SHINE	Roots and Fruits	Reflection/Chaplain	Festival & Hymns	Picture News
Venue	Hall	Hall	Classroom	Classroom	Classroom
Leader	SLT	Teachers	Clergy/Visitor/Senior Leaders/Staff	Teachers	Teachers

In addition, termly worship sessions are held to celebrate Christmas, Easter and Moving On (Summer Term).

## The planning of Collective Worship

Monday's worship sessions are linked to a SHINE value. Autumn one begins with success, followed by happy, included, nurtured, enriched and whole school shine in summer two. Senior leaders plan and lead these values led session focusing upon school priorities.

Each Tuesday there is a theme for Collective Worship, following the Christian values displayed in Roots and Fruits. The values for KS2 are covered over a two year rota. Year A includes: generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect. Year B includes: thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service, truthfulness. KS1 follows the values of the words of Jesus, Advent and Christmas, people Jesus meets, Holy week and Easter, the parables of Jesus and the miracles of Jesus. The values provide the opportunity for children to reflect, usually based on Christian values/dispositions. Wednesday in class worship sessions provide children further opportunity to reflect using a windows, mirrors, doors approach. Christian values and Anglican elements form part of each e.g. Lord's Prayer, prayer, blessing, song / hymn. Monday's worship reflects the school SHINE values (Success, Happy, Included, Nurtured, Enriched.) All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity, to develop the given theme, promote opportunities for spiritual development and promote respect for all.

Reflections can be found in the back of each class's collective worship evidence book.

On Thursday's, children partake in hymns and preparations for religious festivals.

Friday's collective worship is used for Picture News. A resource used to explore and reflect



upon British values and global links. Each week, a current news story is provided to provoke discussion, thought and questions, along with teaching resources. Evidence for Picture News can be located in the front of class Collective Worship evidence books.

### **The content of Collective Worship**

Within our worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include: story, music, images, poetry, drama, use of puppets, games, questioning, singing, prayer, artwork and items from home.

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians, and make use of a worship table in the hall or RE display area in the classroom (includes reference to the Trinity)
- Anglican prayers and hymns and we include the Lord's Prayer.
- Hymns / songs / music are chosen to reflect the theme of worship.
- The School Prayer is said at the end of the day, and Grace is said at dinner time.

Children are shown that time is special. The adult leading worship helps create a sense of occasion. This may be created through signs and symbols. Worship provides the opportunity for staff / children to reflect quietly, and pray.

### **The management of Collective Worship**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Miss Herbert.

### **Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship**

Worship is monitored regularly by the triad group and SLT evidenced in class collective worship books (picture news in the front and reflections in the back.) Feedback from children, parents, Governors is also sought, collated and analysed in order to continuously improve Collective Worship. Governors monitor the provision of collective worship and by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.



In addition to this the collective worship council, which is made up of a nominated child from each class, meets half termly to discuss and review our collective worship priorities.

**Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

