

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents and policies:

- The School's Mission Statement
- Single Equality Policy

Christ Church Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School and as such the Governing Body is responsible for collective worship, in consultation with the Head Teacher.

All pupils in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship (SS &FA SEC70)

Principles

- In accordance with the Trust Deed of the School and our status as a Church of England Controlled School, collective worship will follow the principles and practices of the Church of England.
- Collective worship and education into worship should be distinctive hallmarks of quality in all Church Schools.
- The distinction between collective worship and assembly will be expressed through the lighting and extinguishing of a candle.
- Recalling our Church of England Controlled status and the key principles of this policy, we would hope that all staff will feel able to support and participate in collective worship. However, the school upholds the right of teachers not to be present during collective worship.
- Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.
- Every Collective worship will be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected.

Aims

"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs"

Through collective worship we aim to:

- Plan and present daily acts of worship that are both personally and collectively inspiring.
- Be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- Be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within school community
- Celebrate special occasions in the churches year and the life of the community
- Regularly monitor and evaluate

Within collective worship we aim to;

- Help children to share, explore and reflect on their own beliefs
- Consider the importance of collective worship through prayer, meditation and silence
- Encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school as a community
- Offer opportunities and share worship with parents, governors, and members of local community
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism
- See it as an opportunity to praise God and be thankful
- Include some stories and references to the bible

Policy

- There will be a termly theme outlined in the collective worship planner
- There will be a termly act of collective worship at Christ Church to mark the end of each term and in addition for specific religious festivals (e.g. Harvest)
- Careful planning and preparation will ensure that there is clear learning intentions for pupils
- The children who are members of the school's 'Lighting the Candle' collective worship club will contribute to the development of this policy and to the practice of collective worship in the school.

- Due regard will also be given to national initiatives such as 'Anti-Bullying Week' as deemed appropriate by the school.
- Where appropriate collective worships will be supported by outside visitors (e.g. local charities or representatives of specific organisations)
- Through the services of the Vicar, members of the local church community and members of staff, key stage collective worships will reflect some of the practices, festivals and traditions of the local church and stories from the bible.
- Under arrangement set out in the 1998 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship; this should be given to the school in writing. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship must be supervised for health and safety reasons.