

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

- The School's Mission Statement
- Single Equality Policy
- Schools Ethos Statement

Christ Church Church of England 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) our school.
- 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 lead a 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 church year and the life of the community
- Collective Worship will be monitored and evaluated twice a year

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

- Themes will be outlined in the Collective Worship planner –which is re written on an annual basis.
- 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 will contribute to the development of this policy and to the practice of collective worship in the school.

- Children will be encouraged to lead collective worship and evaluate collective worship.
- Children will take responsibility for the setting up of Collective Worship. This includes; setting up of the altar, playing entry and exit music and welcoming the into church.
- 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 Rector, 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.
- Pupils should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for music lessons or interventions.
- The school will show an awareness of the differing faiths and those with no faith in the school. Children will be taught to be respectful of other faiths.
- At the end of each term and special festivals including Harvest, the school will go to Christ Church, Church for Collective worship.

Format for church

- Before going to church remind the children about behaviour expectations. Even if they are not religious they need to respect the sanctity of the Church and other people’s beliefs. Children must walk into Church in silence and sit in silence waiting for the service to begin. They must not put their feet up on the seats, the prayer cushions or the bible/hymn book shelf. If there are prayer cushions on the floor they must put them carefully under the pews before they sit down. Year 5 children will support younger children by walking with them and sitting with them during the service.

For the end of term service different year groups take turns to prepare and deliver prayers:

- Term 1 – Year 5
- Term 2 – Year 4 - Year 4 lead this as part of our Christmas celebrations
- Term 3 – Year 3
- Term 4 – Year 2
- Term 5 – Year 1
- Term 6 - Year 6- Year 6 lead this as part of their leavers service

Format for collective worships

Pre-Opening:

- Line up for Collective Worship before leaving the classroom – remind children of behaviour expectations before leaving classroom. Children should line up in alphabetical order – this is so that this becomes regular classroom practice for them in case of an emergency evacuation.
- Leave more than five minutes before Collective Worship is due to start – it is expected that Collective Worship starts promptly and all classes should aim to be in the hall sitting down ready at the advertised start time e.g. if it is due to start at 9am all children should be in the hall ready by then.

During Collective worships:

- Music playing on entry
- There should be no talking by children or staff on the way in or out of Collective Worships (adults should be modelling the behaviour)
- Staff should be equally split at both sides i.e. in whole school a member of staff at each end of a year group.
- A candle should be lit during Collective Worships
- The adult leading the Collective Worships can say some set words, or have a set opening but children are not expected to respond e.g. No ‘call and respond.’

- Children will set up Collective Worship and all children will be encouraged to help at or lead Collective Worship.
- Songs of praise may be included as part of Collective Worship a specific collective worship will be dedicated to the learning of songs that are used in collective worships these will be linked to the themes of the collective worships.
- Certificates and celebrations are a part of Collective Worship
- A connection should be made between what was said and the prayer about to be said
- Children should be given some silence for reflection 'count to 12'
- All prayers should start with: "Please bow your heads and remain quiet out of respect. If you would like to make this prayer your own, please say Amen."
- Blow out the candle
- Whenever possible, **notices** should be given now (not at the beginning or in the middle)

