



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY CHRIST CHURCH C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL INNER CITY – FOUNDATION SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

All schools in England and Wales must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils. Collective Worship is not the same as an assembly, which is simply a forum for announcement, school administration etc. The 'majority of acts of worship over a term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character.' (Circ. 1/94, para 62) It should not be 'distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.'

It 'should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'(Circ. 1/94, para 50)

Vision

"As God loves us all, our vision at Christ Church is for everyone in our family to feel equal, valued and prepared for life in modern British society. While walking humbly with our God, our children will become wise, compassionate, independent and resilient learners in an inclusive and safe environment. We strive for success, spiritual fulfilment and a life lived 'in all its fullness'.
Believe and Achieve!"

The following Bible verse underpins our vision statement, aspirations, values and ethos:

"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Mission: *Serving God's Community*

In developing a greater understanding of Christianity and other faiths within the community, we seek to develop the character and ability for all, so that they know they have a place in Gods world and are stewards in the modern world. Dedicated to providing an outstanding education, we prepare our children to become global citizens who are able to accept, respect and live in harmony before God.

By developing the social, moral, cultural and spiritual dimensions of pupils in the school, we ensure they are confident to make a positive contribution to the community.

In finding time to be still and reflect, we seek to foster spirituality and a deeper relationship with God.

How does our collective worship link with our vision?

Act Justly (feel equal, safe, inclusive)

Act justly means living your life with a sense of right and wrong; doing the right thing, at the right time. God is summoning us to eliminate any unjust actions or thoughts. He requires a commitment to assist the less fortunate and those who have been victims of injustice. We need to see others as God does - deserving dignity, respect, love, care and being treated as equals. We are all made in His image.

During collective worship everyone gathers together in harmony before God. Everyone is seen as equals to each other.

Love Mercy (feel valued)

Jesus sets us the example of being merciful and invites us all to do the same, showing what our hearts are like towards others. We must try freely and willingly show compassion and kindness to others. This is shown by valuing each other by forgiving freely, and reaching out to others without expecting anything in return.

Our collective worship themes are based on these values and we constantly remind each other of this. No matter who we are, what background we come from we all love each other.

Walk humbly with your God (spiritual fulfilment, success, independent and resilient learners, Believe and Achieve)

God loves every person equally and wants to connect deeply with them. We need to be frequently in communication and spend time with him. The study of his word, prayer, and worship keeps us connected and gives us hope when we are in despair. We need to endeavour to show humility and appreciation through our actions regardless of our successes; and have conviction that anything is possible with God. We are God's stewards on Earth therefore we strive for being the very best of his creation.

Collective worship allows this reflection time with God.

We follow the model of Jesus, a Jewish Man, serving and meeting the needs of people from faiths different to his own. Christ Church CE Primary School serves families from all faiths and none. We therefore raise pupil awareness with a loving and caring attitude to the fundamentals of some of the major world religions. In doing so we have an opportunity to contribute positively to the development of a society where faith helps individuals to understand one another.

AIMS

- A coming together of the whole school family
- A chance to promote a common ethos and shared values
- A time to consider the spiritual dimension of life
- An opportunity for quiet reflection
- A time set aside apart from the rest of the day
- A time that impacts on the life of the school

STRUCTURING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Worship is an activity; a practical matter directed towards God but is not necessarily a simple matter of words and singing. True worship is an inner response, which cannot be forced as it comes from within and is a response to an experience. There is neither one correct way in which to worship nor only one way in which to respond. Collective Worship should:

- Create the right atmosphere using music, candle (LED candle or PowerPoint display) or quiet
- Have a theme that connects all the elements
- Have a time to respond to the message
- Notices should be planned and thought given to their timing so as not to detract from the message and be brief and to the point.

PLANNING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Weekly themes are set covering the Christian year (Liturgical calendar) and key Christian concepts, in consultation with our Foundation Governors, Head Teacher and our Faith team made up of 2 pupils from each Year group. In addition key festivals from the Islamic, Hindu, and Sikh faiths are covered during Collective Worship. Eid, Diwali, Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival are celebrated through whole school Celebration Assemblies.

There should be:

A fun activity that introduces the theme

Links between the theme and the experience of the children

Draw on religious material

Inclusion of pupils and staff

Reinforce message

A time to respond

Be Christian in the values of Collective worship

Careful use of the Bible

Have two teaching points - one Christian and one secular

Thought given to the prayer

Varied Anglican traditions and practices (sendings and greetings, use of the liturgical colours on the Worship Table and singing hymns)

Worship therefore should offer a rich and varied experience which might involve any of the following:-

- Story telling
- Visual and/or audio aids
- The creative or expressive arts
- Discussion
- Participation through singing or prayer with sensitivity to the mixed nature of the school community.
- Reflection/ Thinking time
- Sharing of knowledge, information and experience
- Exploration of sacred text and symbols.
- Greeting/Sending
- Prayer
- Bible reading
- Hymn/music

In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our school worship is therefore about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made therefore to ensure that the materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL

Collective Worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. This is in accordance with our Trust Deed and statutory requirements. Worship is organised into Foundation Stage and Years 1-6 basis to enable appropriate material and delivery. It is led by staff, visitors and often includes pupil participation. The school fulfils its Christian character by inviting clergy and Christian workers into school to lead worship.

We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils whatever their background is of prime concern to us as a school. However, Christian values are definitely built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based and Foundation Governors are involved in the setting of these themes. A copy of this cycle is available to all parents upon request.

All Collective Worship is timetabled and planned and is usually held during the morning of the school day.

The expectation is that all staff and pupils participate in Collective Worship, a position Governors actively encourage. However pupils and staff have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties before exercising their right of withdrawal.

Staff complete a record sheet showing details of the theme, resources and strategies they have used. This is kept in a file in the hall.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of Collective Worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- Feedback from pupils (Collective worship comment book and Worship board)
- Parents comments
- Children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another
- Completion of Collective Worship record and evaluation
- Observations by Foundation Governors and the Faith Team.

RESOURCES

All available resources are situated in the hall cupboard. The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are also available to give advice and support to staff and visitors where the planning and delivery of Collective Worship is concerned.

B Hussain

Governors Reviewed December 2020