

# **Christ Church C of E Primary School**

Learning, developing and growing together into the people that God intends us to become.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

*Revised October 2016, to be reviewed October 2019*

### **Aims**

At Christ Church Primary School it is understood that the aims of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to learn from the teachings of the Christian faith;
- to promote Christian values, including the school's 5 Christian Values, which permeate the ethos of the school;
- to make space for spiritual development through times of quiet, stillness, peacefulness, celebration, music, drama, stories, poems, singing and prayers;
- to allow all children, whatever their faith background, the opportunity for personal reflection on spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- to provide children with the opportunity to become aware of the importance of the human search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries;
- to reflect together as a school to support a sense of community.

### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and actively participating.

### **Features of Collective Worship in Christ Church School**

- There is a daily act of collective worship in line with the Education Reform Act of 1988.
- Collective Worship at Christ Church Primary School is distinctly Christian reflecting the distinctly Christian ethos of the school.
- The worship reflects the traditions of the Anglican Church.
- Learning about other religions and religious traditions will not form part of the collective worship but is valued and will be carefully taught through the RE curriculum.
- Worship will be led sensitively so that children are not required to compromise their integrity. Freedom of pupil response is essential and no presumptions will be made on behalf of pupils.
- Pupil participation is valued and promoted where possible.
- A distinction is drawn between assembly as a gathering together for information giving and worship as an act of religious worship. Collective Worship leaders should display good practice in teaching terms using a range of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic approaches to engage all pupils and staff.
- Teaching staff are expected to join the school for assembly unless they have a duty to cover.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. This forms a part of our whole school assembly. Class R do not join all assemblies in the early stages in line with the recommendations for good practice in the Foundation Stage.

The Head, Deputy Head, Assistant Head teacher, RE Co ordinator and visitors such as local clergy lead assemblies on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesday assembly takes place in class and is led by class teachers.

The themes for the assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith and Values and they often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The RE subject leader plans the assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Wherever possible, child involvement in worship is promoted. Children remember acts of worship in which they or their peers have been involved. Children are welcome to contribute ideas for worship and such ideas are valued and where appropriate incorporated into future worship.

Children enter for worship quietly and calmly whilst appropriate music is played. At the end, children are encouraged to reflect on the content of the worship, whilst listening to quiet music and leave quietly and calmly.

Resources are stored in both the Head and the Deputy Head Teacher's office.

The Lord's Prayer in its modern version, as used at Christ Church church, is used in assemblies.

Songs for use in assemblies, carefully selected from a range of contemporary Christian music, are taught to children during singing lessons and the music teacher supplies music and words for use in assemblies.

Parents are invited to termly class assemblies and we encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of children. These assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. They allow the opportunity for reflection on the learning in addition to other elements of worship.

Notices and any other business which must be of a positive nature, are dealt with before the worship takes place. This is to help promote the distinction between information giving and the act of worship.

Prayers are said at the end of each day in each classroom. Grace is said or sung before lunch before the children leave the classroom. Services are held in church marking significant festivals and occasions. In order to encourage pupil involvement these are organised as follows;

- Harvest service led by Year 4;
- Christmas service led by Year 3;
- Easter service led by Year 5;
- Leavers' service led by Year 6.

### **Monitoring**

Whole school assemblies will be attended by at least one member of the Senior Management Team who will monitor the collective worship. Monitoring of class assemblies will usually be informal through conversations with children although occasionally a member of the Senior Management Team or the RE Coordinator may join a class for their assembly for the purposes of monitoring. In the summer term, questionnaires will be given out to children and parents regarding their views of school's collective worship. They will also have the opportunity to suggest any changes or improvements to collective worships. These will be analysed by the RE subject leader and fed back to staff and governors. Any changes that are agreed will be added to the collective worship action plan.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Collective Worship will be planned with the whole school community in mind, therefore efforts will be made to differentiate accordingly. The principle of inclusion will apply, all children will have access to collective worship and allowances will be made for differences (eg beliefs, physical disability etc).

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. The Education Act 1988 states that all registered pupils should take part in a daily act of collective worship unless wholly or partly withdrawn by parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents considering this are encouraged to discuss this with the Head Teacher. Those then wishing to exercise this right must inform the Head Teacher in writing. The school will arrange a place of safety for such children while collective worship takes place, and parents should provide activities for their children during this time.

Children in the Foundation Stage have different needs to the rest of the school and whole school assemblies are not always appropriate for them. The class teacher will lead age appropriate acts of worship within their classroom instead.

## **Health and Safety**

The Collective Worship leader must ensure that the mental health of children will not be affected by the content of assemblies for example those following bereavement or world tragedies, and if they feel it might, steps must be taken to ensure appropriate follow up in class.

## **Visitors**

Visitors to the school are carefully selected. They are in the main drawn from the clergy within Christ Church, from other local churches and where possible represent the five parishes from which the children of Christ Church School are drawn. Visitors are briefed on the expectations of the school concerning collective worship.

For further information please refer to:

- Collective Worship co-ordinators file
- Teaching and Learning policy
- RE policy
- PSHE policy
- SMSC policy