

# Christ Church CE Academy



## Collective Worship Policy

**This Church of England Aided Academy aims to serve its community by providing an excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in the context of Christian belief and practice.**

**It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and requires the valuing of other faiths.**

**It promotes Christian values and spiritual development through the experience it offers to all its pupils.**

**These values are implicit in this policy.**

### Status

Draft for staff

Accepted by staff

Draft for Governors

Mar 15

Accepted by governors

Mar 17

Date for Review

## Policy Statement

At Christ Church CE Academy, the legally required daily act of collective worship is highly valued and is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take part in a high quality and meaningful experience offering a spiritual encounter within an inclusive Christian and educational context. It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. Collective worship is based on promoting the Christian values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection. Review of collective worship is regarded as an essential part of the whole school development plan. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### At Christ Church CE School we aim to:

- offer the whole school community the opportunity to participate in worship, ensuring that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children on both an individual and collective basis;
- enable children, staff and visitors to explore and celebrate difference and diversity in a safe environment where all who wish to feel confident to name God
- seek to widen and enhance the experience of those of faith, no faith and the curious and to allow them to make their own response;
- allow the whole school community to recognise the presence and personal nature of God;
- offer inclusive worship within the tenets of the Anglican Christian tradition recognising the presence of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- ensure that collective worship is properly resourced and professionally co-ordinated;
- use monitoring and evaluation of all stakeholders to review and further develop creative and meaningful acts of collective worship in Church (school led worship) and in school.

## Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either partially or wholly. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head Teacher. Teachers and other staff members also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in collective worship.

## Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by Head Teacher or Assistant Head.
Tuesday	Whole school worship led by Head Teacher/Assistant Head/Rev David/other members of staff
Wednesday	Whole school hymn practice, with prayer and reflection time, led by our Choir Director or a member of KS2 staff.
Thursday	KS2 celebration assembly led by Head Teacher or Assistant Head. Early Years and KS1 collective worship led by a member of the KS1 team
Friday	KS1 celebration assembly led by Head Teacher or Assistant Head. KS2 class based collective worship led by the Class Teacher. Themes support those introduced during collective worship on Monday.

Collective worship generally lasts for approximately 30 minutes.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship (for example, Hand to Mouth Ministries).

**Christ Church Community** afternoons are held once a term where pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, the school and church community come together for collective worship in school led by Reverend David.

**Church Sundays** (school-led worship) allow children and their families to take part in collective worship with the local church community.

Church seasons and key festivals are celebrated in school and in Church (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost).

Worship makes a positive contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of both children and staff. Everyone is encouraged to reflect on their relationships with God, each other, those of other faiths and the wider world. Children are encouraged to see situations from other points of view.

### Planning, detail and content

The themes for **Monday's** collective worship reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos, the school's PSHCE curriculum (based upon the SEAL units of study), and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music for the week and could come from a variety of cultures. The candle on the alter table is lit and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship and opportunity is often given to celebrate children's achievements during 'Marvellous Monday' activities. Collective worship finishes with a prayer. The candle is then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

The format for **Tuesday's** collective worship is similar to Monday's.

**Wednesday's** hymn practice includes the lighting of candles to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candle is blown out and messages are given. The children leave the same way as before.

**Thursday and Friday Celebration Assemblies:** celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, the class teacher choose three members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. This takes place after the candle has been lit and the children have sung the hymn. After the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candle is blown out.

The format of collective worship on **Friday's** in KS1 is similar to Monday's. Class collective worship in KS2 consists of the candle being lit at the beginning of worship, development of the week's worship theme (which takes many forms, such as a Bible reading/story/drama or video clip), a prayer and reflection. Music is often played and the candle is blown out to signal the end of collective worship.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Once every half term, the collective worship leaders and members of the worship club meet in order to plan and deliver collective worship.

### Prayer and reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer, prayers written by the children and other prayers. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short period of quiet. At the beginning of collective worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of the candle. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

### Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil's beliefs. The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### Responsibility for collective worship at Christ Church CE School

Monitoring and review of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the head teacher, the R.E. co-ordinator, the governor with specific responsibility for collective worship, the incumbent and the pupil collective worship leaders. The R.E. coordinator and link governor meet to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the co-ordinator and the governing body.

### The Right of Withdrawal

Christ Church CE Academy recognises the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship as clearly laid out in the Pupil Handbook.

### Equal Opportunities and special needs issues.

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each key stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children in the class.

### Support for delivery of collective worship (professional development)

Christ Church CE Academy recognises the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and will ensure that training is offered by the R.E. coordinator on both an individual and whole staff basis.

## **Monitoring standards**

The following grade descriptors are taken from the requirements for 'outstanding' within the Section 48 Framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) September 2013.

### **Grade Descriptors: Collective Worship**

#### **Outstanding (Grade 1)**

Across the school community great value is placed on collective worship; its place in school life and its impact on individuals is readily and clearly articulated.

Collective worship is inspirational and inclusive. It engages all learners and its impact can be clearly discerned in all aspects of relationships and school life.

Collective worship regularly includes Biblical material and Christian teaching and learners are able to relate this to the school's core values and their own lives.

Learners can identify clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship particularly local Anglican/Methodist practice, the seasons of the Church's year and Christian festivals.

Themes raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct and charitable social actions expressed in Christian terms.

Learners understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of their own spiritual journey. They seek out opportunities for this in their own lives and contribute confidently and sensitively to prayer in worship.

Collective worship has a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and learners understand the central position he occupies in the Christian faith.

Collective worship has a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Learners recognise this and talk about it with an impressive degree of understanding.

Learners are confident in planning and leading acts of worship, whether prepared beforehand or spontaneous, and have frequent opportunities to do so.

A range of leaders, including staff, clergy and representatives from different Christian traditions, together with a variety of settings for acts of worship offer learners a rich experience of worship.

Monitoring and evaluation have a clear purpose and are managed efficiently. Feedback gathered from a range of stakeholders provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and leads directly to significant improvement

*Grade descriptors for 'good', 'satisfactory' and 'inadequate' can be found in [The Evaluation Schedule for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools](#) (published September 2013)*