

Christ Church CofE Primary Academy

R.E.S.P.E.C.T

Collective Worship Policy 2023/2024



As a Christian Community, collective worship at Christ Church C E Primary Academy plays an important part in the life of our academy. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which values the uniqueness of the individual, the rights and responsibilities of all children, in accordance with UNCRC, the principle of forgiveness and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

Our school motto summarises our purpose:

"Learning with God and Each Other to Be the Best We Can Be"

Our whole school Christian vision statement:

We are one Christ like family. Our vision is to see our school, family, wider community and church working together to enable all to flourish.

We will achieve this by demonstrating respect in all that we do as we live life together just as the Good Samaritan did.

Realising our God given potential

Enjoying each day

Supporting and serving our communities

Praising and worshipping

Encouraging each other

Celebrating diversity

Treating others as we would want to be treated. Luke 6: 31

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school/academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education Act which states,

Learning with God and Each Other to be the Best We Can Be

*'....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship',*

And, that this should be,

'.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (IQ3 of the SIAMs Framework September 2023) The core question is:

How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

The inspection will evaluate this through the following questions:

- a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican/Methodist foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?
- b) How do partnerships with the DBE and/or MAST, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?
- c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?
- d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?
- e) How does the trust contribute to and enhance the school's worship and spiritual life?

The right of withdrawal – see appendix

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders – see current practice
- This can happen as a whole school body, year group, form, class or key stage

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways

Learning with God and Each Other to be the Best We Can Be

- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition. This will be via taking part but receiving a blessing unless the children have been confirmed
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in a community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those represented in our school/academy
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school/academies and community information

Occasionally we hold whole school or key stage assemblies which are not collective worship.

AIMS OF ASSEMBLIES:

- to develop a sense of community and shared values
- to consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- to be challenging and inspiring
- to celebrate the highest achievements of every individual
- to celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth

- to foster a thought –provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In conjunction with the Principal, Local Academy Committee, staff and the school community, the worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Worship Ambassadors discuss the policy with the Principal and the Vicars of Christ Church. In addition all teachers in our academy are ‘spiritual leaders’ and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness. Parents are also kept informed through regular newsletters and our web site.

The worship leader, supported by the Vicars of Christ Church, has responsibility for leading this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Resourcing worship

The worship leader is responsible for ordering and managing resources and ensuring their availability. Such resources are located either in the locked cupboard, the head’s office or via the internet. Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided with opportunities to support the delivery and contribute to whole school, year group acts of worship both in our academy and at Christ Church.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders opinions are sought including pupils, teachers, LAC members & parents. Worship is part of our annual academy development plan to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around a number of different resources including:

- Roots and Fruits
- assemblies.org.uk
- themes based upon our academy Christian vision and values

Worship Schedule – September 2023

<u>Day</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Grouping</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Monday	Roots and Fruits	N-Y6	8.55am	Hall	SLT
Tuesday	Christ Church Vision and Values	N-Y6	8.55am	Hall	Clergy or other Visitor/SLT/Principal
Wednesday	Praise and Worship (hymn practice)	N-Y6	8.55am	Hall	Principal
Thursday	Picture News worship	Mixed year groups pupil led worship (Y6&4, Y5&3, Y1&2, N&R)	Times variable	Classrooms	Pupils and Class Teachers
Friday	Praise and Celebration	Whole School	8.55am	Hall	Principal or Vice Principal

NB. If worship is taking place in the classroom, it will be performed at an appropriate time, decided by the class teachers, during the day.

In addition, there will be school worships in church by arrangement between the school and parish. This usually happens during key events in the Christian calendar including Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Parents are welcome at all acts of worship. Visitors and outside speakers are invited into school to lead worship.

A Eucharist is held at appropriate times during each term, with our year 6 pupils actively leading/participating in a Eucharist in the summer term, following whole class teaching and learning of this particular aspect of Anglican worship.

WORSHIP AMBASSADORS

Worship ambassadors are children from Year 1 – Year 6 who work with Mrs Scattergood and members of the local clergy to ensure that Collective Worship is effective across the school.

What is their role?

- Ensuring that collective worship is as good as it can be
- Making sure the classroom/hall is ready for worship
- Leading our whole school prayer at the beginning of worship
- Finding out about the views of pupils and parents

- Sharing prayers written by pupils in their own class every Friday afternoon. Year 6 to share reception, year 5 to share nursery
- Actively participating in whole school collective worship
- Being good role models during worship.

What are we going to achieve this year?

- Introduce a wider range of hymns/music into our collective worship
- Meet each half term to review the collective worship delivered
- Lead class based worship and support staff and clergy in the delivery of whole school worship

Approved and signed off by

Principal.....

Chair of Local Academy Committee

<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Review Date</u>
04/11/11	Approved and issued with amendments	Autumn '12
16 th Nov '12	Approved with new worship themes for this current academic year and the addition of As a Christian Community at the very beginning of the policy.	Autumn 2013
8 th Nov 2013	Approved with new worship themes for this current academic year.	Autumn 2014
07/11/14	Approved with new worship themes for this current academic year.	Autumn 2015
13/11/15	Updated, and new worship themes included for current academic year	Autumn 2016
09/09/16	Updated with new worship themes for the current academic year, updated school values (the addition of friendship and endurance) and the addition of worship ambassadors	Autumn 2017
04/09/17	Updated with new worship themes for the current academic year	Autumn 2018
13/09/18	Updated with new worship themes for the current academic year	Autumn 2019
05/09/19	Updated with new worship themes for the current academic year and changes to who delivers worship	Autumn 2020
01/09/2020	Updated with new themes and arrangements for the delivery of worship due to Covid-19.	Autumn 2021
01/09/21	Updated with new themes and arrangements for	Autumn 2022

	the delivery of worship during the ongoing pandemic.	
13/09/22	Updated worship themes and delivery of worship. Slight change to timings and inclusion of Legal Framework section taken from LDBE 2018 suggested policy. Removal of worship themes to a separate document	Autumn 2023
05/09/23	Change of timings for the year – renamed schedule. New vision and Christian values inserted. Updated SIAMS section.	September 2024

Appendix

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017

Collective Worship

The **1944 Education Act** gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in section 71 of the **School Standards and Framework Act 1998**. In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is **Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship**.

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the headteacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

The right of withdrawal from collective worship

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher / Principal will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher / Principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in **Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)**