



Collective Worship Policy

Our vision, rooted in the words of Jesus (Matthew 19:14), "***Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,***" is to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where all pupils are nurtured and valued within a Christian ethos.

To achieve our vision we:

- provide inspirational and enjoyable learning experiences through a curriculum that is broad, balanced and based on the needs of our children
- work hard to reach our full potential
- share each other's success
- promote a sense of belonging to our school, local and Church community
- foster high self-esteem and nurture high aspirations
- ensure pupils become more confident independent learners
- provide a safe, warm and welcoming Christian environment within which everyone feels valued and respected
- develop spirituality, a moral ethos and an appreciation for Christian values
- enable everyone to grow and blossom into responsible and successful citizens through the firm Christian foundations we provide and an appreciation of national and global communities.

We are a strong team of proud pupils, parents, staff, governors, the Church and the local community.

Our Christian faith gives rise to our service to God and to the community. Our core principles are friendship, forgiveness, hope, trust and courage. These give rise to justice, wisdom and thankfulness.

28/1/19

Accepted by governors

July 2026

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 coordinated;
- 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 experience for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday -Whole school worship led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team

Tuesday -Whole school worship led by Class Teachers

Wednesday -Class based worship with prayer and reflection time

Thursday -Singing worship led by a member of staff

Friday- Celebration Worship led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team

Themes support those introduced during collective worship on Monday.

Collective worship generally lasts for approximately 20 minutes.

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

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 a specified class.

Church season 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, details and content

All sessions of Collective Worship start with the 'Welcome Words' and the lighting of the three candles on the Worship Table e.g. We have gathered in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to worship together and think about our value Generosity.

Monday: the themes for Monday's collective worship are structured around the Christian values of generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect, thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service and truthfulness; whilst reflecting the Church calendar, our school ethos, and current events. Each collective worship follows a structure of 'Welcome', 'Learning', 'Reflecting' 'Responding' and 'Fruits from the Roots' (which gives practical ideas to encourage further discussion and consideration to the theme throughout the week).

Tuesday: collective worship is an extension from Monday's. Providing time for reflection, to discuss with others or to undertake follow up activities. After this, we come back to revisit our theme.

Wednesday: Class collective worship consists of the candle being lit at the beginning of worship, development of the week's worship theme (which takes many forms, such as 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.

Thursday: Our hymn practice includes the lighting of the three candles and welcome words are spoken. Aims in hymn practice are 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 candles are blown out and messages are given.

Friday: Celebration Worship celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, the class teacher chooses a member of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. This takes place after the candles have been lit, the welcome words have been spoken and the children have sung the hymn. After the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said and the candles are blown out.

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 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 related to the focus theme. 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 candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table. Reflection is an integral part of the structure of each session of Collective Worship. Participants are encouraged to continue to reflect

beyond each Collective Worship, in the classroom, at home and to take time to reflect within themselves.

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 pupils' beliefs. The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the Religious Education (RE) studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Responsibility for collective worship at Christ Church CE School

Monitoring and a review of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Head Teacher, the RE Lead, the governor with specific responsibility for collective worship, the incumbent and the pupil collective worship leaders. The RE Lead and link governor meet to discuss various aspects of RE and this ensures an effective line of communication between the RE Lead 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 RE. 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 RE Lead on both an individual and whole staff basis