



Christ Church C of E
Primary School

Collective Worship
Policy

2021 - 2024

Approved by Governing Body:

Due for Review:

September 2024

Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.”

Romans 12:9-12

Mission Statement

Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

Our mission is to love all children who are part of our community helping them develop respect, tolerance, self-confidence and to become the best they can be.

We will support our children to develop their God given gifts to the full and encourage a life-long passion for learning which will successfully lead them into secondary school and beyond.

As a church school at the heart of Moreton community, our work is underpinned by the Christian values of *friendship, humility, forgiveness, compassion, justice and service* which Jesus helps us to achieve.

We are a welcoming, caring and inclusive school committed to working in partnership with parents, governors, Christ Church and Chester Diocese Academy Trust.

We strive to provide a rich and varied curriculum which reflects God’s concern for the whole child; promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, physical and emotional wellbeing alongside academic excellence and independence.

As a school community, we all work together to provide the very best for our pupils and families; firmly believing that:

Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us

Christ Church C of E Primary School, Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the RE subject leadership team, approved by governors including our Incumbent, Reverend Cousins. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.

The right of withdrawal

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is respected. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, then alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life.

Aims and Objectives

At Christ Church C of E Primary School, we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and our care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship (*as detailed in the Diocesan guidelines*) are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (Our chosen Christian values at Christ Church are: love, peace, service, forgiveness, joy, hope) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. Christ Church Parish, Moreton) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

(Church of England Collective worship guidance document 2021)

Our aim is for collective worship to be invitational, inclusive and inspiring.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the RE & Worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. At Christ Church C of E primary school this will occur regularly and subsequent CPD sessions will be provided including direct training, coaching and mentoring.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The RE / faith worship leadership team, the headteacher and governors will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the school improvement plan.

Review

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *three* years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements

of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children, unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Christ Church C of E Primary school, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship are delegated to the RE / worship leadership team in liaison with the Head teacher and Incumbent. They plan the themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the RE / worship leadership team.

Conclusion

At Christ Church C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Christ Church C of E Primary School, we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

