

**Christ Church C of E School
Collective Worship Policy
May 2024**



Christ Church
CE Primary School
Regent's Park
NW1 4BD

Christ Church C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy



‘Learning, God’s Way’

Christ Church is a special place with a unique sense of family and community, where we live according to Jesus’ teachings. Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. Everyone is included. We care for the whole child and the extended school family spiritually, mentally and physically.



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CONTENTS

- ❖ Mission Statement
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Aims
- ❖ Anglican Faith and Practice
- ❖ Organisation of Collective Worship
- ❖ Planning, Recording and Evaluating Collective Worship
- ❖ Prayer and Reflection
- ❖ Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development
- ❖ Inclusion
- ❖ Legal Requirements
- ❖ Responsibilities

Mission Statement

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." *Ephesians 2:10.*

We are all created by God.

We are all joined as a family.

We are all growing and learning together in His love.

The Christian Faith is at the heart of our school community. At Christ Church we care for each other and learn together.

**Our Christian Values are
Creation, Community, Endurance, Thankfulness, Reconciliation, Wisdom**

Christ Church is a small, caring school which is committed to a broad, balanced curriculum and to a continual raising of standards. We aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical needs of every individual.

We are a Church of England school with a strong commitment to the teaching of Christianity, whilst also supporting a multi-faith approach to the curriculum. We recognise, value and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that exists in our school and our community. Our vision and ethos build on this.

The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in our positive, disciplined and calm atmosphere. We believe that effective learning takes place when children work in a purposeful and stimulating environment that supports a wide range of learning styles. Mutual respect between adults and children promotes excellent behaviour and well developed social skills. With this approach we seek to achieve high academic standards.

We aim to cater for each individual, taking particular account of any specific needs or abilities. We endeavour to ensure that all our children fulfil their potential and, within this context, we emphasise health and safety, enjoyment and achievement and the beginnings of responsibility for themselves and others. These skills will be carried forward to the next phase of education and throughout life.

The whole school community is committed to a collective responsibility for the implementation of the values inherent in this statement.

We use our six Christian values, Creation, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Community Endurance and Reconciliation, to reinforce and enrich our teaching wherever applicable.

Creation

'For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.'

Hebrews 3:4

Wisdom

'For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.'

Proverbs 2:6

Thankfulness

‘Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.’

1 Chronicles 16:34

Community

‘My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.’

John 15:12

Endurance

‘Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’

Galatians 6:9

Reconciliation

‘Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.’

Colossians 3:13

Our vision is inclusive and seeks to promote the whole child thrive within our Christ Church family.

Each member of our Christ Church family; children, parents and staff are valued as God’s creation. We believe in full inclusion and acceptance of all and that this allows every individual to flourish.

Introduction

Christ Church CoE Primary School regards the daily act of collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life. Through collective worship and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our school motto:

At Christ Church we care for each other and learn together.

Collective Worship aims to:

- Foster feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness, wonder and joy.
- Help children discover their place in the world.
- Provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour and praise.
- Establish, explore and reinforce the Christian Values of Christ Church School.
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.
- Heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide an opportunity to reflect upon these whilst supporting the search for meaning.
- Enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements and enjoy celebrations.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others and to provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly St Mary Magdalene’s Church.

- Encourage respect and care for God's creation by demonstrating a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of Collective Worship:

- Collective Worship should aim to provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and visitors to worship God.
- Acts of Collective Worship should be at a time of day set aside for a unique occasion which celebrates the beliefs and backgrounds of individual members.
- An act of Collective Worship should acknowledge and value the response of each pupil. It should be a time to share thoughts and ideas.
- Acts of worship should provide opportunities for pupils to express feelings of awe, delight, joy, sorrow and to rejoice in the good.
- An act of worship should be designed to encourage reflection.
- An act of worship should be a daily reinforcement of the feeling of community - one body of people with different views valuing each other as individuals.
- An act of worship is an interactive process between the child, worship leader and that which we call God.
- Some acts of worship should make the children look beyond the immediate environment of the school and reinforce their place in the wider community.
- Acts of worship should introduce pupils to various aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere (e.g. poetry, drama, music, art).
- Acts of worship should encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.
- Collective worship is something that is not bound by the constraints of time and place: the effects of worship permeate through the life of the school.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England.

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.
- We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship.
- We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.
- We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebration of the major Christian festivals.
 - We provide a focal point for the act of worship - candles, cross, a candle, a picture, flowers and the liturgical colour is evident on the worship table.
- A wide variety of resources are used to encourage discussion and reflection: music, movement, poetry, pictures, videos, photographs, stories, children's work, role play, drama, natural objects, artefacts, candles and incense.
- We use greetings, prayer and blessings from the Church of England website and its link to Worship Workshop.
- We foster links with St Mary Magdalene's Church, involving the Vicar Sally Jones, in collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and worship in school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We aim to provide a variety of worship experience. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Worship led by the Head teacher. Children share in leading prayers.
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by Vicar Reverend Sally Jones. Children share in leading worship through acting and reading with a member of the Senior Leadership Team
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by Crossteach. Children share in leading worship through acting and reading.
Thursday	In-class worship led by a member of teaching staff, frequently including children in leading prayers, reading etc. The school uses the programme I-Sing Pop to support 'in class' worship.
Friday	Whole school Celebration Worship. We celebrate and value our children's learning and personal achievements each week, including awarding a badge to a child who has displayed our Christian Values in their conduct.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into school to lead worship, share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Worship commences with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The music chosen reflects a wide variety of cultures. The candles on the worship table are lit and this signifies that the act of Collective Worship has begun. (We are explicit about the transition e.g. 'we are lighting/extinguishing our worship candle because our act of worship has begun/finished'). Children are often invited to lead worship through reading, drama, selecting and leading prayers. At the end of Collective Worship the candles are blown out and this signifies the end of worship. Notices can then be given out.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating Collective Worship

Acts of Collective Worship at Christ Church C of E Primary School are planned around the rolling programme of Christian Values, church festivals, key dates, current events or key events in the life of the children and school. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with themes taught as part of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. A record is kept of all acts of worship using the half termly planning document. This record details the theme / content, prayer, reflection, hymn, music and leader for each act of collective worship.

When planning Collective Worship:

- We include the school's vision and associated Christian Values and the teaching that roots them in Biblical narrative
- We ensure the plans and themes are personalised for our school and reflect our local context
- We include links to local charities and charity weeks that are occurring in our area
- When appropriate, we adapt or change the planning to focus on global or national situations that should be shared, spoken and prayed about as a school community e.g. conflict or terrorist incidents, human suffering, natural disasters, situations in the school or local community or a moment of celebration, e.g. a royal wedding, football, a rescue operation.

Pupils Planning and Leading Worship

'Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.'

1 Timothy 4:12

- We believe that it is important pupils be given the responsibility and ownership of planning, leading and evaluating acts of worship by naming them first in the sentence. This includes enabling pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Our Collective Worship Policy expects pupils to be regularly involved in leading acts of worship:
- Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design an act of worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.
- Pupils are encouraged to lead, fully participate and engage with what is being said, resulting in acts of worship that have an impact on the lives of all those present.
- The Faith Ambassadors are beginning to evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used, including the Lord's Prayer, school prayer, prayers written by the children and prayers from the Church of England website.

Grace is led by the children or staff at the beginning of lunch time.

Each class begins and ends the school day with prayers led by the teacher or the children (TSP-Thank you, Sorry, Please).

Each classroom has a cross and prayer area as a focal point for class and individual prayers.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. Children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the culture of others.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take into account different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi—sensory approaches.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. 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.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Voluntary Maintained school rests with the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for “the purpose of securing, as far as practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with provisions of any trust deed relating thereto.” The Head teacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

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