

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School	Effective Date:	January 2023
Policy and Procedure Statement	Revision Date:	January 2026
 <p>*COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY</p>	Reviewed:	Every three years
	Head Teacher	Mrs C Pritchard
DSL	Mrs C Pritchard	
Chair of Governors	Mrs J Fisher	

Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22:39)

Whitchurch Vision Prayer

Lord God, together we make a difference through love, courage and respect. With kind actions, words and thoughts we accept everyone for whom they are and care for those in need. Help us learn well with curiosity and confidence. Our world is your creation and we will cherish it. Amen

Whitchurch Values

Together we make a difference through love, courage and respect.

Collective Worship is an opportunity to reflect and reinforce the vision and mission stated above. We consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Worship in our school should:

- at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being Invitational, Inclusive and inspirational
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year

- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church
- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults. making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

Aims

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly.

How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and the Heartsmart resource programme – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony

Engaging Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content

Responding Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways and in addition

Sending Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

School Specific Organisation

Monday: Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy

Tuesday: Each Key Stage separately led by a visiting minister or member of staff

Wednesday: Song Worship with the music teacher and staff

Thursday: Class worship in the classroom or Pupil-led with parents

Friday: Whole School celebration worship led by the Headteacher or SLT member

Collective Worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship. Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage individual pupils and adults in prayer.

Management and organisation of resources

Mrs Lawley, the R.E manager, plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents. All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles.

Communication

The weekly school newsletter contains the weekly theme, prayer and Bible reading so parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school. This provides an opportunity for further discussion at home. Information about school worship is also provided to the local parish church so parishioners can be informed about the worship in school

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. The school will respect parental requests and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

Responsibilities

The normal expectations within our church school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly. At interview, all applicants are informed that the school holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation will be that teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in and lead collective worship. The Head Teacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship is undertaken by pupils, staff and governors on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

***Noting the difference between Corporate and Collective Worship**

Corporate Worship assumes a single shared set of beliefs within the context of a specific faith community e.g. Christian, Hindu, Jewish

“Collective Worship recognises the collective nature and diverse beliefs and opinions of those present. Worship should be offered in a way that all those present, regardless of faith or worldview stance, can feel comfortable and welcome to participate in the experience being offered.” Guidance for Collective Worship in Church Schools.

Collective Worship resources:

Roots and Fruits 1 by Shahne Vickery

Roots and Fruits 2 by Shahne Vickery

www.portsmouth.anglican.org/education/collective-worship/

Appendix 1- The inspection of collective worship by SIAMS (church inspection)

Appendix 2 – Guidance for Collective Worship in Church Schools

Appendix 2 – Collective Worship Planning form

Appendix 3– Collective worship evaluation for