

Christ Church CE Primary School

'Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22:6

Policy for Collective Worship

At Christ Church CE Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation.

'We value all children as unique 'Children of God' and welcome them into our safe, loving and supportive Christ Church family. We endeavour to use nurture to encourage individuals to flourish and aspire to reach their God given potential. We rejoice in our rich diversity and our broad, balanced curriculum provides opportunities for all to achieve excellence, open minds and inspire dreams both now and the future'.

It is a time where we join as a community to share our **love** of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting our core Christian values (See Appendix 1), which permeate its ethos. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

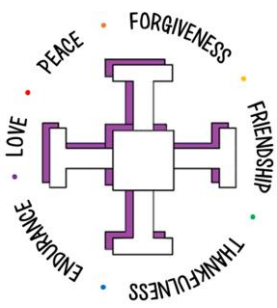
What is Collective Worship?

Worship is...

*Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.*

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts. It provides the children with the opportunities for personal reflection on the spiritual dimension of life

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Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. 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 that states,

*'.....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'

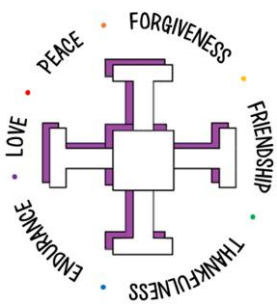
Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

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 (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, **the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.**

Here at Christ Church CE, this inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection,

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the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The right of withdrawal (See appendix 2)

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

Format for Daily Acts of Worship

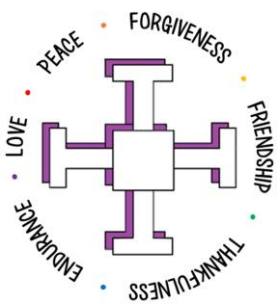
Teachers will use a range of formats all of which will help develop an atmosphere where children can truly reflect on the spiritual dimension of life. All classes have a focus area where the cross, prayers and other Christian artefacts are on display.

Each worship will begin with a 'Call and Response' and the lighting of candles where Jesus is invited into the worship.

All worships will include a 'still' moment for reflection, a prayer and the Lord's Prayer. 'Take-away tasks' are used to deepen the children's understanding of key themes and are focused upon within class worship. Class Reflection Books evidence thoughts, feelings and ideas.

How collective worship is delivered

- Individual Class Worship – class teachers are responsible for delivering individual worships.
- Key Stage Worship – KS1 and KS2 worship together once or twice per week, in addition to whole-school worship. Foundation Stage and KS1 worship together approximately once per week.



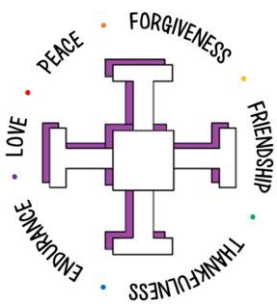
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- House Worship – KS2 children attend worship within their own 'House Team'.
- Worship from visitors – The local Mission Team regularly deliver worship.
- Worship from the 'Worship Team'.
- Whole-school Worship – every Friday the school gathers for worship and a celebration of the children's achievements. A rota is in place where each class is responsible for worship. Songs, prayers and stories are selected to demonstrate the key teaching which links to our school vision and values. The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher, or individual teachers, are responsible for the remaining worships. Parents/Carers are invited to attend our whole school collective worships and telephone calls are made to share news of awards that are going to be presented. Songs are linked to themes and worships.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- 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 is taught through RE lessons and within class worships in Key Stage Two.
- explore our Christ Church Christian vision and values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to our school, 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 **loving** and **supportive** community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection which will **'open the minds'** of our pupils
- 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 vision and values



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- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in order to 'inspire dreams' of others in every aspect of school life
- 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
- celebrate achievements of members of the school community who are fulfilling their **God-given potential**.
- celebrate those pupils who display our core Christian values on a daily basis (See Appendix 3 for certificate examples)
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school routines
- share local school and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately, the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to Mrs Till, the Collective Worship lead. The local Mission Team (Heathland Mission Team) liaise with Mrs Till regularly in order to lead and participate in Collective Worship at Christ Church CE.

In addition, all teachers within our church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Resourcing worship

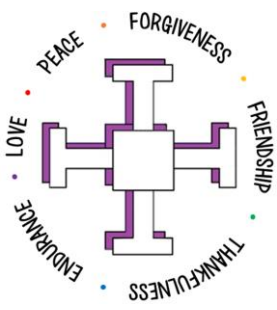
Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship (whole school, year group, key stage or class / form), so that they have ownership of it.

Themes are in place for class, key stage and whole-school worship. A range of suitable resources, e.g. stories, prayers, artefacts, songs and music are available from the Collective Worship lead. Resources are continually developed in consultation with staff and their requirements. Visual stimulus (video clips) is regularly used to increase engagement.

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

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and a yearly action plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

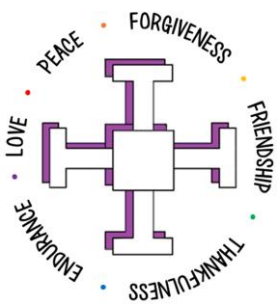
A 'Worship Record' is used in order to keep a log of worships that have been undertaken. Teachers record the worship type and songs, prayers and themes. These records are monitored by the Collective Worship lead Worship and the Worship Team at the end of each term, and discussed with the class teacher if necessary.

Members of staff are observed as part of the monitoring schedule and strengths and areas for development are discussed. The staff and children also monitor the effectiveness of worship and make suggestions on how it could be improved.

Date: February 2022

Review Date: February 2024

Next Review: February 2026



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Appendices – Appendix 1

Christian Distinctiveness, vision and values

Our vision and Christian values and beliefs, lie at the heart of all acts of worship at Christ Church CE. The key values of our school – Love, Peace, Thankfulness, Endurance, Forgiveness and Friendship are taught on a daily basis and are rooted within all that we do. Our vision leads the direction of our school and ensures that we are all striving towards the same end goal. Worship provides an opportunity to strengthen and reflect upon our special Christ Church family.

Love

Children are taught that 'Love' underpins all of the other values. Love is the most important value – for Christians and for our school family.

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' Matthew 22:39

Peace

Children are taught how to be at peace with one another. Matthew 5:19 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God".

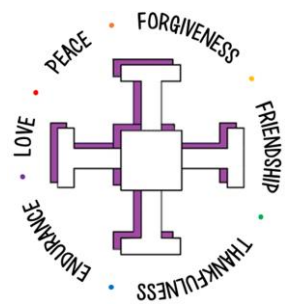
Thankfulness

Children are taught to be thankful towards God who gives and sustains life. Psalm 28:7 says, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song".

Endurance

Children are taught to persevere even when tasks in life are sometimes difficult.

Romans 15:4 says "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope"



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Forgiveness

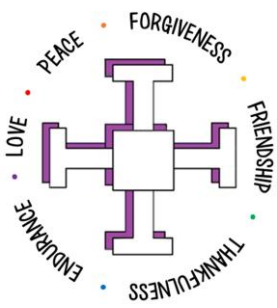
Children are taught to forgive one another and are always given a fresh start.

Luke 23:34 says, "Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us".

Friendship

Children are taught to develop positive friendships with others. It is an undisputed value in our society.

John 15:15 says, "I no longer call you servants, because a servants does not know his master's business. Instead, I call you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.



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Appendix 2

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

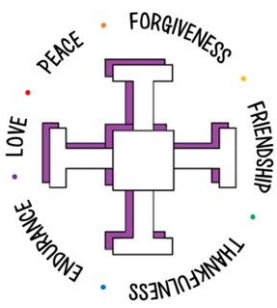
Collective Worship

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,



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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

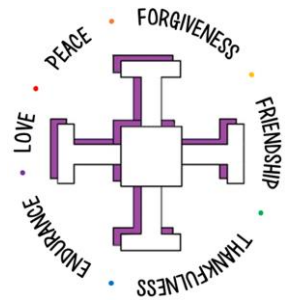
The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school 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 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 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)**



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Appendix 3 - Christian Value Certificates

Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *love*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *endurance*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

NEHEMIAH
WE ARE ALL BUILDING SOMETHING

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Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *forgiveness*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *friendship*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *peace*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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Congratulations

is awarded the Christian value certificate for showing *thankfulness*.

Class Teacher: _____
Head Teacher: _____ Date: _____

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