

Christ Church, Church of England, Junior School



Collective Worship

Christian Vision
Grow and Learn together with God by our side.

October 2021

Collective Worship

The main aim of collective worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, whatever their faith background, set within the Anglican Christian tradition of the school. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission vision:

'Grow and learn together with God by our side'

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 sets out as the central aim for the school curriculum that it should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Every school must provide Religious Education and a daily act of collective worship for all its pupils.

Legislation also states that worship is:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders.
- In sympathy with the cultures and beliefs represented in the school community.

The right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents is also **recognised**.

Christian Values

Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School promote the core values of love, perseverance, kindness, respect, friendship and honesty. Through these values we explore and promote how the teaching from the Bible relate to our everyday lives.

'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'

Proverbs 22:6

Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School plays a central role in the development of the Christian ethos of our school. It offers the whole school community the opportunity to participate in and experience the expression of Christian Worship which is valued through the school's Anglican Foundation.

Religious Education and Collective Worship make an important, although not exclusive contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils at Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School.

Religious Education and Collective Worship are set within the multicultural context of our school community which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, social background or religion.

We aim for Collective Worship:

- to enhance the spiritual development and the responses of the pupils
- to foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- to create an atmosphere in which God and worship are both natural and normal
- to foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a number of ways
- to explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- to provide the children with a deep understanding of the Holy Trinity
- to provide children with the opportunity to take ownership of worship.
- to learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and the Christian Festivals, in a way which relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in a multi-cultural community
- to provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff and appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus.

At Christ Church Collective Worship:

- a) provides a breathing space in the 'busyness' of school life, a time to meet together, to be still and to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and quiet, a time to refresh the spirit.
- b) provides the opportunity for our children to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- c) encourages participation and response whether through listening to or/and joining in the worship offered.
- d) develops community spirit, promotes a common ethos and shared values and reinforces positive attitudes.
- e) gives our children quality learning experiences being properly prepared and resourced. It may also be related to other curricular activities and will at times complement work done in RE.
- f) affirms Christian beliefs, values and behaviour and honours the Church Foundation of the school.
- g) Provides children with meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development.

What is Collective Worship?

- a) 'Worship' is not defined in the legislation but one can assume it should be taken to have its ordinary and natural meaning. That is, it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with giving honour and reverence to God as revealed in Jesus Christ.
- b) The difference between assembly and collective worship should be clear. Collective worship can nevertheless be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.
- c) Collective worship is capable of gaining a response from pupils

What is an assembly?

A time to:

- a) recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- b) consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- c) be challenging and inspiring
- d) celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- e) celebrate achievements of the school that are held to be of worth
- f) foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response.

Character of Collective Worship

1. Collective worship in our school is to be 'wholly of a Christian Character'. It will reflect on the traditions of its Anglican foundation and draw upon the riches of other Christian denominations.

There are many values and beliefs which are part of the broad traditions of Christian belief but which are also widely held in other religions and society at large. One example may be a sense of awe at the natural world. Such a value can be explored and celebrated in worship in a manner that complements the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos of the school.

2. As long as 'broadly Christian worship' reflects the traditions of Christian belief taken as a whole, it need not contain only Christian material. An act of worship must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which give a special status to Jesus Christ.

Organisation of Collective Worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School

Collective worship at Christ Church is held daily on the school premises and includes all pupils attending school.

Four days a week, Worship takes place in the hall as whole school. The fifth day, the children stay in their classroom and worship through Christian meditation and reflection.

Worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School is a daily act involving thought and reflection.

Weekly themes focus on Christian Values through Bible stories, prayers and hymns.

Worship begins with the lighting of a candle and an introit and closes with prayer and the Grace.

Each Class leads worship at least once during the year.

A lunchtime prayer is said everyday before the children leave their classrooms for their lunchbreak.

Who Leads Our Worship?

In addition to school staff and children leading worship we have a weekly visitor to our school who leads worship each Tuesday.

Rev. P Wootton

Rev'd Philip Wootton is the Team Rector for Christ Church, The Good Shepherd and the Church at Perton. He is also a Foundation Governor of our school.

Rev. D Wright

Rev'd David Wright has been the Rector at St Peter's Collegiate Church since 2009.

Mrs L Percival Link Governor

Mrs Lynne Percival is a Link Governor at our school and a retired Head Teacher.

Rev. Lin Vawer Curate

Rev'd Lin Vawer is a curate at Christ Church.

A Weekly Overview

Monday

Staff led Worship. The teachers from across the school lead Worship in order to reinforce the importance of Worship across our setting.

Tuesday

A member of the Parish team leads Collective Worship.

Wednesday

Worship is led by a member of the Leadership Team.

Thursday

Class based reflection based on the week's theme.

Friday

Celebration Praise: We celebrate our achievements during the week and give thanks for our education.

Resources

Worship is planned using a variety of resources. These resources include 'Roots and Fruits' and 'Blue Sky Worship'.

Methodology of Collective Worship

The atmosphere in which the school meets for collective worship is very important and the use of suitable background music is encouraged to set a spiritual atmosphere, conducive to worship and to an awareness of God's presence.

Children are encouraged to enter and leave the hall in a quiet, respectful manner which should help them feel calm, relaxed and comfortable. Staff also play an important role in creating such an 'atmosphere' for children to take part in collective worship.

The school realises the need for a 'visual focus' for collective worship. The crucifix, altar table, lectern and Bible all serve as 'visual focuses' to aid our setting for Collective Worship in the school hall. Small crosses and dedicated display areas in each classroom provide the focus for daily prayers and collective worship.

Collective worship at Christ Church provides opportunities for the children to participate in a variety of spiritual activities such as celebration, ritual, singing, dancing, drama, prayer, quietness and time for thought and sharing of hospitality. It also tries to encourage participation, reflection and individual response to worship.

Some of the hoped for responses might include a sense of God, awareness of beauty and goodness, sense of awe and wonder, sense of responsibility, sense of community, achievement, empathy, thinking of others, thankfulness and joy.

Planning and Recording

The timetable and related themes for Collective Worship are prepared by the Head of School at the start of each term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Information is gathered in three key ways:

1. Personal experience and observation by the SLT.
2. Pupil Voice- The children's views are collected termly. The children's understanding of content of worship sessions is also monitored through the responses recorded during reflection which is handed to the Head of School weekly.
3. Behaviour Records Behaviour records are monitored to ensure the values are being lived out in school.

Evaluations/Outcome

The information from all areas of monitoring are considered and form the basis of the School Improvement Plan for the Collective Worship strand within our SIAMS action plan.

Advice and guidance on key areas is also sought from the visiting members of the parish team, and through the Diocese during Annual Review Visits and appropriate information/ training sessions offered by the Diocese.

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