

**CHRIST CHURCH
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)
INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY**

**“Working together to build a strong foundation through
faith and learning.”**



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Adopted: March 2019

Policy Review: March 2020

Mission statement

“Working together to build a strong foundation through Faith and learning”

Christ Church (Church of England) Infant School and Nursery aims to provide, within a Christian Foundation, the highest standards of education and care.

We recognise and celebrate the limitless potential of all our young children and seek to maximise their natural enjoyment of and enthusiasm for learning.

'Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'
Proverbs 22:6

Vision and Values

Our distinctively Christian ethos contributes to Christ Church as a centre of learning excellence inclusive to all. Through living out our core Christian values – **respect, kindness, honesty, love, friendship and perseverance** – we are a community in which all our members are respected and valued, and can flourish as human beings equally created in the image of God. As a school we provide an engaging, well balanced and inspirational curriculum through which every child's potential may be fulfilled. Through positive encouragement and nurturing, each child has the opportunity to develop to the full – socially, emotionally, spiritually and academically – so as to be equipped with the life skills needed to live as a valued and valuable member of society.

Legal Requirements

Our school is a Church of England, Voluntary Controlled School. Our trust deed requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

We also take into account the 1988 Education Act 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'*

Our vision is reinforced through our collective worship, which plays an important part in the life of our school. Collective worship is held daily with an opportunity to praise God through reading the Bible, stories, prayers and songs. It is rooted in the knowledge that God loves us as unique individuals made in the image of God. We foster a sense of awe, wonder and thanksgiving, valuing the mysteries of life through worship, whilst following the Christian calendar and sacraments. Through this, children will share collectively in experiences of “awe, wonder, stillness, silence, mystery, questioning, celebration, suffering, dedication and thanksgiving.” This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school, which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

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 (Church of England) Infant School and Nursery 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, 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

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.

Our school prospectus also informs parents of their right to withdrawal for their child and welcomes them to discuss this with a member of the senior leadership team where necessary.

Aims of Collective Worship

The school's collective worship reflects something special or separate and is different from Assembly and ordinary school activities. Collective worship is 'God-centred.'

The aims are to:

- provide a time to gather, to be still and to reflect
- engage in an act of community
- offer a special time with a distinctively spiritual atmosphere which is conducive to worship
- ensure that children attending collective worship feel calm, relaxed, secure and comfortable
- nourish spirituality through a variety of words, music and images
- provide opportunities for children to participate in a variety of spiritual activities such as ritual, singing, dancing, drama, sharing of food and drink, prayer, quiet contemplation and meditation
- encourage reflection, individual response and participation
- share each other's joys and challenges
- learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a world that relates to the children's experience and to living together in a community
- express praise and thanksgiving to God
- affirm Christian values and attitudes
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity

Collective Worship is as 'Inclusive as Possible' and:

- is related to the children's own experience and relevant to children's concerns
- fosters a spirit of community at Christ Church (Church of England) Infant school & Nursery
- encourages mutual respect
- enables children to have a Christian attitude to others in the school community

Collective Worship is 'Educational' and:

- is part of the learning process and related to other curriculum areas, especially work in Religious Education
- offers the children opportunities to appreciate religious language to express feelings and belief, particularly within Christianity

Collective Worship affirms Christian beliefs, the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God.

- Children explore and encounter worship significantly of a Christian kind
- Collective worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Infant school & Nursery both celebrates and affirms the Christian distinctiveness of the School
- Christ Church (Church of England) Infant school & Nursery also fosters links between collective worship in the school and with our linked church, Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood.

Content, Continuity and Progression

Through planning and liaison amongst the staff and the local clergy, collective worship programmes of learning are formulated using a range of resources including: Imaginor 'Roots and Fruits', Treasured Tales and Open the Book. The pattern of the Church Year is adhered to with visits to church for special festival days. The children attend church for Christmas, Easter and the end of year Leavers' Service. Our children join the Junior School in a Christmas Carol Service as well as all year groups taking part in nativity productions. We hold a thanksgiving service in church for our Year 2 leavers each summer and our children lead an annual Easter service in church. Harvest services are held at school led by the children. Parents are invited to join us.

Collective worship is arranged so that there is a variety in content and leadership. The content is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of the children at the school. We seek regular opportunities to support local, national and world-wide charities.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Board, particularly Foundation Governors, have responsibility to ensure collective worship is planned with due regard to the Anglican dimension and the Christian year; in conjunction with the Executive Headteacher, Head of school, staff, and school community. Parents are kept informed about collective worship through the school prospectus, newsletters and the school website. The Head of School has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for collective worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community. The Head of School also keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan when relevant with INSET and resource development. Monitoring the quality of collective worship is an on-going process in which all stakeholders' opinions are sought- pupils, teachers, governors and parents - to ensure the quality of worship offered gives opportunity for spiritual development and reflection.

Our Christian worship includes:

- The Christian Year of Festivals
- The Christian Rites of Passage – Anglican and other Christian traditions
- Biblical teaching from the Old and New Testaments
- The Life of Christ
- Faith in action – relevant examples to the school community from the past and present
- Parables and sayings of Christ
- The spiritual search – with examples of journeys e.g. missionaries, past and present
- Values and morals affirmed in school
- People who have challenged and inspired
- Topics related to the curriculum of the school, which have a Christian religious/spiritual focus

- Every day experience which has a spiritual focus

To set an appropriate tone for entering and leaving our worship time a range of classical music is played. The children are welcomed and a child is chosen to light the worship candle and carry out an introit. During the year, children are encouraged to become involved in leading worship in a variety of ways.

Songs for worship are sourced from a variety of Christian resources.

Prayers during our worship time include Silent Prayer, Prayers of Praise and Chorus, Free prayer and the 'Lord's Prayer'.

We encourage children to share their own prayers within worship either written or spontaneously.

The "Reflection/Worship Areas", located in each classroom, aim to give children the opportunity to share their thoughts, celebrations and concerns.

No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that children become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience.

The Head of School creates a Collective Worship Plan detailing the content of each Collective Worship session. This informs all staff of the stories, prayers and content covered for each theme and aids the monitoring process.

School Assemblies

At times, the whole school gathers together for assembly. Whole school assembly sessions aim to:

- recognise the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
 - be challenging and inspiring
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- our assemblies have a broad Christian link through songs and prayer, and include:
 - secular matters relevant to the school community such as; festivals and traditions of members of the school community who do not own the Christian faith.
 - morals and values consistent with and supported from within the Christian context of the school that can be affirmed.

Current Practice

Worship at Christ Church (Church of England) Infant school & Nursery involves children aged from 3 to 7 years and all the staff as included on their job descriptions. The focus of our worship is Christian and takes place in a variety of settings and groupings, with a variety of leaders.

At present, worship takes place at 10:00am-10:20am every day:-

Monday

Open the Book - led by a team of volunteers from Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood which include Foundation Governors. (Based on the major stories in the bible and Christian Values). Delivered to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils.

Tuesday

Songs for Worship - led by Mrs Billson and Mrs Granger – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday

Classroom Worship - following school themes and Christian Festivals during the school year.

Thursday

Whole school Worship - led by Mrs Lunn following school themes and Christian Festivals during the school year – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Friday

Celebration Worship - led by a member of staff (rota basis)

Children contribute to worship, both in school and at church, through role play, leading prayers, Bible readings and choosing music etc.

Nursery

Nursery join us for whole school worship every Monday as well as having their own worship session in Nursery once a week. Their worship uses a set format of calming music, lighting of a candle, listening to and discussing a relevant story, the saying of prayers to include the Lord's Prayer (modern version) to aid transition to Infants and the singing of a hymn. Worship ends with the candle going out.

Nursery visits Christ Church once an academic year. They celebrate specific festivals throughout the year.

Many cross curricular opportunities to experience awe and wonder, relationships and the natural world are encountered daily.

The Worship Environment

The focal point for worship in the hall is our worship table (presented to us by Christ Church to commemorate our 150th anniversary). The table has a cross and a candle which is lit at the start of worship and put out when worship ends.

The hall also has a crucifix. A worship theme board tells the children the theme for each half term and offers them a question to reflect on relating to the theme. The children lead into the hall to calming music to induce an appropriate atmosphere for reflection and spirituality and indicating the importance of our worship time.

Hall displays are relevant to the Christian foundation of our school. However we aim not to make the hall environment 'too busy' with posters and other materials that may detract from the opportunity for reflection. Children lead in and out of the hall calmly. Excellent behaviour is expected throughout.

Christian Artefacts and Resources

During daily worship there is access to a cross, a candle, music and the Bible which may be used as a focus within worship. The colours of the Christian Year are reflected in altar coverings.

Staff resource books are stored in the school office or resource boxes.

A good range of books, including bibles, are available for the children in the library and in classrooms.

All classes have a reflection/worship area, appropriate artefacts and a worship candle so that when worship takes place in the classroom (Wednesdays) the experience is consistent with whole school worship.

Cross Curricular Links

We are developing opportunities for each class to lead the worship of the school. It may relate to their class work and include worship participation through prayers and songs. Prayers are said at lunch time and the end of the school day. Some of the themes introduced in collective worship are built into the school's R.E. programmes of study and provide extra stimulus for these lessons.

Staff Development

The Executive Headteacher and Head of School will liaise with staff for developments via the diocese or externally. Training also includes governors.

Home-School Links

Parents are invited to join us for collective worship when we go to church, at services held in school, worship to see their children take part in class assemblies, and at the end of each half term for our 'Gold Award' celebration worship.

External Relations

The school has close links with Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood and its clergy. A team of parishioners, which include a Foundation Governor and Reverend Phillip, deliver Open the Book on a weekly basis. Reverend Phillip leads services in Church on Festival Days. Guest speakers take collective worship in school, as appropriate, throughout the year.