



Our **Vision** is to be a...

**Caring Community,  
Courageously Learning,  
Inspired to Live Life to the Full.**



*Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."*

*(John 10:10)*

## **Collective Worship Policy**

CCI is a vibrant, inclusive and aspirational school that strives to keep the wellbeing, education and safeguarding of children at the centre of all we do. Our staff, families, Church and Governors harmoniously work together to encourage children to flourish as people as well as learners in a setting where every child is empowered, their background celebrated and their mental health protected. Our Church school vision is seen through our values-led curriculum, holistic approach to each individual and community focussed experiences. This approach then enables every child in our care to learn to live life in all its fullness, during their educational journey with us.

The value we place on every individual extends to our staff team too, who are our greatest resource within school. We aim to uphold high levels of wellbeing through continued professional development, high aspirations and an ongoing collaborative approach. In all we do at Christ Church Infant school, we keep children at the heart of our work. The following policy sits within this school vision and ethos so should be read with this context in mind.

Signed CoG: 	Name: Chris Douglas	Ratified Date: T4 2022-23
Signed Head: 	Name: Anna Martin	Review: T4 2024-25

# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and Ethos Statement of the school.

**Ethos statement:** *Christ Church CE VC Infant school has a church foundation and seeks to fulfil the aim of its Trust Deed by offering high quality education within the context of Christian faith and practice. Christian standards and values are reflected in the life and work of the school and are promoted amongst the children.*

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational. The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that all members of the community will be present unless they specifically request to withdraw.

## Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

## Aims

*Collective worship in our school aims to:*

- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes.
- offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.

- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices as well as those without a specific religious belief.
- enable children to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, morally, culturally.

### Guidelines, planning and leadership

- Collective worship and Religious Education are separate activities, although in our school they often reinforce each other.
- We will hold our act of worship daily, usually in our school hall for typically fifteen minutes.
- The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher both lead two Acts of Worship each a week, including Roots and Fruits and a worship exploring spirituality.
- Teachers also lead Worship through celebration on a rotation.
- Visitors from Christ Church usually visit once per term and follow the 'Jack in the Box' programme.
- We use silence, stories, stillness, music, video and other means to aid reflection and facilitate prayer.
- Our acts of worship are planned termly with weekly themes that are reflected in our school values and are reviewed by the Ethos Committee (See TOR).
- We sometimes use different settings for our worship, for example on the school field by the spiritual garden and Christ Church itself.
- Our school's Christian values are explored in turn on a termly basis and used as a starting point to explore how we live out other Christian values such as forgiveness and generosity.
- The school's values are supported by a Bible story and Bible verse each term.
- British values are explicitly or implicitly included in the termly plan for worship.
- Our collective worship follows a pattern which typically includes a liturgical response 'Peace Be With You, and also with you', saying welcome words whilst lighting the three candles 'We are gathered in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to worship together and think about our value of...'. We then share the school vision and follow the Windows, Mirrors and Doors structure to encourage the children to look outwards, reflect and then apply what we have talked about.
- All staff and visitors from Christ Church who lead Collective Worship are expected to follow this pattern of Worship and resources will be provided to do so.
- We aim to reflect Christ Church's Anglican tradition in a relevant way to our infant school.
- We welcome regular visitors to lead our services. All visitors leading worship are made aware of the school's collective worship policy and our core values statement.
- The school appoints a team of Y2 children called a GLOW Team (Group Leading Our Worship) 3 times per year and they help to plan, lead and monitor the effectiveness of Collective Worship.

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship can be seen here;

<b>Monday</b> <b>Bible</b> <b>Stories/British</b> <b>Values/World</b> <b>Faiths/Diversity/Topical</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Bringing the Values</b> <b>to life –</b> <b>inspirational</b> <b>stories and people</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>All staff: Worship</b> <b>through</b> <b>Celebration</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>Roots &amp; Fruits –</b> <b>Christian Values</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>Spirituality</b>
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### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Collective worship is monitored and evaluated by the Ethos Committee.

- The Ethos Committee report regularly to the full governing body.
- Pupils are encouraged to give feedback on the collective worship using a variety of methods but mostly through pupil conferencing and through interactive displays. GLOW team are also interviewed by governors during Collective Worship monitoring.
- The Head and Deputy Headteachers work with the GLOW team to help them improve Collective Worship.