



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Approval Date:	Autumn 2021
Review Date:	Autumn 2022

[John 4:24](#)

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

POLICY

Churchfields School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. In accordance with legal requirements ([School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

Rational

At our school we aim to work to make collective worship relevant to our pupils by relating it to the teaching and stories in the Bible, to school, local, national and international events and to needs within our school.

Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.

The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious/nonreligious communities from which pupils come. The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

Aims

It is our aim at Churchfields VC School that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community.
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

The role of the children in Collective Worship

Children will be given the opportunity to:

- read prayers, stories and bible passages
- engage in role play
- role model and engage in drama
- run acts of Collective Worship
- work with talk partners

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Planning

Each term there is a theme for Collective Worship, currently refocussing on our school values, published at the beginning of the term. It is expected that those leading worship each week will use the worships planned by the RE and Collective Worship Leader (currently Mrs Louise Pugh). On occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example the cross is a symbol which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection).
- The type and use of prayers in worship.
- Learning traditional prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians.
- Allowing those who are not Christian to take thinking time rather than pray.
- Providing opportunity for meditation and silence within the worship time.
- Experience the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions.
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of music, visual foci and symbols.
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination.
- Use collective worship as a time to ensure that children understand how to keep safe inside and outside of school and when using new technologies (Internet).

Structure

The organisation of worship will give regard to:

- How the children and staff are seated.
- How the children leave and enter the room (in silence, listening to music or in discussion).
- Where the act of worship takes place (inside/outside).
- Who leads the worship (Children or adults)?
- The type of music, silence or stimulus that is used.

There will be no set format for entering/leaving collective worship as we see its as learning experience for children for future life, when it is unlikely they will be asked to enter and leave rooms in silence all of the time.

Monitoring

Collective Worship will be monitored by: The RE/CW leader, the headteacher, vicar, link governor, staff and pupils.

During our collective worship we will:

- Celebrate main Christian festivals.
- Use our local parish church as a place of worship.
- Celebrate the achievements of pupils.
- As part of the preparation for the next step for older children leaving our school.

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Class worship

Class worship is carried out once a week by class teachers and reflects on the theme for collective worship that week. Each class has a worship box containing items changed on a regular basis to enhance the children's experience. A candle is lit as in collective worship so that the children understand it is a time for worship and not a lesson.