



CHEW STOKE CHURCH SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

This policy is written with reference to the Christian Foundation of the school.

'Confident in Learning, Caring in Life'

Our vision has been inspired by Luke 10:27

This policy should be taken and used as part of Chew Stoke Church School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our aims and values as a Church of England School.

Rationale

To provide an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education. It is also an opportunity for all those members of the school community who participate to reflect in silence and to develop their inner life of the Spirit. "Be still and know that I am God".

Aims

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- To reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. Truth, Trust, Courage, Compassion, Friendship Trust, Love) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- To nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- To seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- To explore the children's own beliefs
- To encourage participations and response (active or passive)
- To develop community spirit
- To promote a common ethos and shared values
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To provide a time of silence in which children may listen to the voice of their inner Spirit
- To provide a still, calm time of reflection at the heart of the busy school day

Guidelines

- An act of worship will take place each day. Sometimes these will involve the whole school but on some days separate acts will be held for individual classes or by Key Stage.

- The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all and will allow for a variety of responses.
- The act of worship will be taken by members of staff, the local incumbent or church leader, or by carefully chosen visitors. All those responsible for arranging an act of worship are given a copy of the worship planner and worship themes for the term and a copy of this policy.
- The Headteacher (as the leader of Collective Worship) is available to provide details for opportunities for reflection/hymn/prayer and suggest possible follow-up activities.
- Worship will be shared with our village church of St Andrews
- Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals of the Church year and with the curriculum plan for RE. This plan is made at the beginning of each year and will aim to provide continuity and progression in considering issues and an opportunity for children to develop spiritually over a period of time.
- Care will be taken to explain to children, from the youngest age, the purpose of worship.
- The act of worship will follow a recognisable format:
 - The worship will last for 15-20 minutes
 - The children will enter the place for worship in silence and calmly
 - There will be a still, silent time for reflection and sometimes a prayer and a hymn/song
 - The worship will have a clear focus and will always involve pupil participation. The theme will usually be developed over a period of time.
 - Elements used in the worship may include music, dance, drama, artefacts, personal experiences, stories, readings, poetry, quotations, artefacts, silence and audio-visual material.
 - When the whole school meets in the hall, a table draped with a cloth will be used as a focal point with a cloth of the correct liturgical colour. The focus will vary from a cross, flowers, candle, Bible or other suitable items depending upon the theme of the worship.
 - May take place in our Spiritual Garden.
 - Any notices will be clearly separated from the act of worship.

Planning of Whole School Collective Worship

Whole school collective worship is based upon the 'Vision and Values' programme which is designed to follow SIAMS requirements to develop Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and contribute to spiritual, moral and cultural development. There will be a detailed focus on a Christian Value each term, although our other values will still continue to be explored.

Right of Withdrawal

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out; this may be by school staff, governors, children and members of the Worship, Ethos and Equality Team. Strategies for collecting evidence will include:

- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of Collective Worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents and visitors
- monitoring of class assemblies will take place by the head teacher and the Worship, Ethos and Equality Team
- observing the extent of Collective Worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout school

This information will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of Collective Worship on an annual basis and shared with the Governing Body.

Equal opportunities

Children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. It is important that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

Valuing All God's Children (Guidance for Church of England Schools on Challenging Homophobic Bullying) 2014

'Church of England schools have at their heart a belief that all children are loved by God.'

Supporting Policies

RE Policy

Behaviour Policy

Health and Safety Policy

E-Safety Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Spirituality Policy

Date: Sept 2022

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