CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

-Worship Policy-

(Adopted from LDBE)

Headteacher: Mrs A Graham

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CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL
-Collective Worship Policy-

Worship is…

Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God.

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Mission statement
Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Christ Church C.E. First School. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school/academy it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in, take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with Christ Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:
Trust Deed
Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school/academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance
We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools

1988 Education Act
We also take into account the 1988 Education 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'

Worship and/or Assemblies
Some schools have a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil's achievements. Care should be taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil's achievements and successes. Here at Christ Church C.E. First School we have a celebration worship on a Thursday morning and parents are invited to be part of this. It runs on a rota basis each half term.

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 C.E. First School, 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 – see appendix

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

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders as follows:
    - Monday (pm) – whole school worship
    - Tuesday – class worship
    - Wednesday (am) – whole school worship with the church team
    - Thursday (am) – whole school celebration worship (parents invited on a rota basis)
    - Friday (pm) – whole school worship

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition. This is taught in RE lessons.
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship

- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school/academies and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to Mrs E Morgan. In addition all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness. The school follows the Roots and Fruits resource for collective worship as a whole school. The church team is also actively involved in planning and delivering worship in school.

Resourcing worship

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship (whole school, year group, key stage or class / form), so that they have ownership of it. At Christ Church, we have worship leaders who conduct the beginning and end of each worship. Class worship follows the theme of the whole school worship and often fits in with issues we may need to discuss with pupils, such as compassion or forgiveness (for example.)

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around and number of resources:
We use Roots and Fruits, the Lion Storyteller Bible, resources from online sources such as www.assemblies.org.uk/

"Be the best you can be in God's beautiful world"

Appendix

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017

Collective Worship

The ***1944 Education Act*** gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in section 71 of the ***School Standards and Framework Act 1998.*** In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is ***Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.***

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the headteacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw form collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

The right of withdrawal from collective worship

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher / Principal will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children form collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher / Principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in **Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)**