

## Collective Worship Policy

September 2016

This document seeks to define what we consider to be outstanding practice for Collective worship at CtS and describes our desire for children and adults' spiritual growth.

This document intends to meet the requirements of the SDP 2016-2017 CP4.5

This document should be read in conjunction with the spirituality at CtS policy statement which more fully defines our understanding of spirituality and spiritual growth for children and adults.

### The purpose of Collective worship

Collective worship will be an exceptional experience within the terms of our agreed vision that is our deeper purpose.

Collective worship will provide the 'good earth' for all in our community to flourish; where every member can fully explore who they are created to be, with the high expectation that we, individually and collectively, will bear fruit beyond our wildest dreams. A place where we are **loving, learning and growing together**.

Collective worship will 'grow' people to embrace the fullness of life, and nourish a growing community where that life can be expressed.

Collective worship will be a rich and true experience of a Christian community, where we will be a beacon of love, light and hope here on the west flank of Milton Keynes.

We want collective worship to be an experience that transforms our lives, individually as children and adults, and as a community. Collective worship will lead to spiritual development and a greater understanding of Christian belief and practice. As a non-selective ecumenical school, collective worship is time where we all gather together, rejoicing in our diversity but rooted in the word of God.

### Acts of collective worship are characterised by:

- An ever-increasing understanding of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as the source of Love
- Rejoicing in our diversity, recognising that we are part of the same body journeying together, walking hand-in-hand with God.
- A strong focus on Jesus Christ
- The Bible as the word of God
- Distinctive Christian values
- A celebration of Christian traditions, the seasons of the Church's year and Christian festivals.

As such they will often include:

- Prayers we can choose to say amen to
- Prayers and blessings we join in with e.g. the Grace, the Lord's prayer etc

- Stories that are always linked to our core values, often based on the Bible, sometimes based on lives of Christians, occasionally informed by other faiths.
- Talks which further explore and aid understanding of the story or value, making it applicable to our own lives.
- Community singing to develop sense of belonging and enjoyment, to praise God and share Biblical truths.
- Silence and music, both used for preparation for worship and personal reflection
- Games/Visual stimuli are used to involve children, to engage interest, and make relevant the value or Biblical message.
- Candles to help create a church-like atmosphere and for spiritual focus.
- Other creative opportunities such as drama, poetry, art...
- Responsive readings and sayings that invite all to participate

#### How worshippers are given opportunity to respond:

- Through class collective worship, opportunity for all children to contribute to explore themes at a deeper and age-appropriate level
- Through times of silence at the end of phase/school collective worship
- Through interaction with soul space when they visit in small groups with member of chaplaincy team on hand ( soul space changes at least termly)
- Through prayer space events held at least twice yearly
- Opting for a golden time activity in soul space with member of chaplaincy team
- Time to talk individually with an adult if they wish to (particularly through role of learning mentor who is also chaplaincy team member)
- Through home learning, particularly around church holidays/ events
- Through engagement with the spirited arts competition
- Through opportunity to attend Christian residential visit (yr 6) and other Christian-run events/trips.

#### Leadership and organisation of collective worship

Acts of worship are mostly scheduled at the start of each day. This enables the day to begin in God's presence and to help us all begin the day with the right perspective. We are sent out of Collective worship, encouraged to take responsibility for our own conduct, treating others as we would wish to be treated ourselves. We leave collective worship knowing we are strengthened through our community spirit and/or our faith in God.

- The teacher with responsibility for spiritual development plans Collective worship over the year, supported by the chaplaincy team and head teacher. She also takes responsibility for reviewing and improving the provision for Collective worship.
- The head, as the spiritual leader of the school, regularly leads Monday's collective worship to MLP/ULP
- The chaplaincy team, under leadership of Helena, takes responsibility for leading a series for collective worship every term.

- Members of clergy lead collective worship on Thursdays with year 1-6 present. The Bridge builder trust (Christian schools work charity) lead two acts of worship a term.
- A chaplaincy team member leads the ELP in an act of worship weekly.
- A team of children from Year 6 lead collective worship once a week for the ELP, based on the retelling of Bible stories
- Children are involved in acts of worship each week through playing music, leading prayers and doing readings.
- Children in all classes are taking responsibility to lead aspects of class collective worship for their class.
- Each year, every class prepares to lead the whole school in an act of worship based around their learning and their Christian class value.
- Children will be involved in the planning of future prayer space events.