



Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

At Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School we provide the 'good earth' for all our children to flourish; where every child can learn and explore who they are created to be, with the high expectation that we, individually and collectively, will care for each and every child.

A loving place where we all care, learn and grow together.

Members of staff responsible:

Chaplaincy lead

Date of policy: January 2021

Introduction

The collective worship policy at Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the board of trustees of ODBST.

Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims of Collective worship

Collective worship in Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School aims to provide the following for pupils and staff.

- 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 our unique and Ecumenical school community. We want to celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements and build a sense of community.
- 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 and moral development and a greater understanding of Christian belief and practice. The activities will encourage everyone to consider ethical issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- We aim to develop a reflective approach to living which encourages an understanding of; and invitation to prayer and to look beyond the physical and material.
- As a non-selective ecumenical school, collective worship is a time where we all gather together, experience a variety of styles of worship and rejoice in our diversity while being rooted in the word of God.

- Children participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship or exploration of human values. They feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above.

Statutory requirements

Through its funding agreement with the DfE, Collective Worship must

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors

Therefore, at Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School our collective worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship must comply with this; just the majority so we can include material from other religions and non-religious world views.

Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Christ the Sower, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. Delegated teacher (usually the Chaplaincy Lead) draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. HT/DHT/delegated members of staff observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term, including 2 evaluated observations, to ensure that they comply with school policy, vision and the law. **Governors may also attend collective worship to monitor their policy.**

Leadership and organisation of collective worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school halls, or the classroom, usually at the start of each day as part of our daily assembly. Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

- Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year
- The head, as the spiritual leader of the school, regularly leads Monday's collective worship.
- The chaplaincy team, under leadership of the chaplaincy team leader, takes responsibility for leading a series for collective worship every term.

- Members of clergy lead collective worship once a week with year 1-6 present. The Bridgebuilder trust (Christian schools work charity) lead two acts of worship a term.
- Children may lead collective worship for other children
- 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.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths.

The Chaplaincy team plans Collective worship over the year, supported by the head teacher. They also take responsibility for reviewing and improving the provision for Collective worship.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly to termly planning and our recording sheets enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship.

Visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies e.g. a welcoming liturgy, lighting candles, music, singing, silence, blessing etc. we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends. Children are given the opportunity to respond in a variety of ways including Soul Space, prayer space events, and class collective worship.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who

wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.