



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Collective Worship Policy supports this vision for the school:

Checkendon Primary School is a dynamic Church of England school in which our Anglican Christian values of respect, courage, integrity, compassion and hope are at the heart of everything we do. We give every pupil the opportunity to develop their particular capabilities in our stimulating and caring environment where creative teaching and an inspiring curriculum lead to high-quality learning and outstanding achievement. We work in partnership with parents and the wider community to help every pupil make excellent progress, develop a lifelong love of learning and broaden their sense of citizenship, as they grow in mind, body and spirit.

Checkendon Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and the daily act of worship is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Collective Worship at Checkendon E of E (A) Primary School takes place in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998. The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church of England School. The policy has been prepared by the head teacher with assistance from teachers and the rector. The Diocesan Advisor for Religious Education has been involved. The policy has full approval of the governing body.

Aims

We seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school, and its care for all who learn and work here. We aim to nurture responses of delight, and the awe and wonder in worship. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and our aim is for believers to be able to share in it and that others will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

The central aims of collective worship at our school are to:

- affirm our identity as a Church of England School
- provide pupils with regular opportunities to worship God through praise, stillness, reflection and prayer
- promote children's spiritual, moral and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of our school and the Christian communities associated with it, which includes sharing of gifts and talents of all our pupils
- help children develop respect and understanding and participation in the nature and language of Christian worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others

We believe that collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for thanksgiving, stillness and reflection in what is so often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

Organisation

Worship takes place each day either in the church or the school hall and lasts around 15 minutes. It is timetabled to ensure that during each week there are:

- 2 whole school worships led by the headteacher one of which incorporates a celebration of children's achievements including how they live the school values
- 1 whole school worship led by the rector or a member of his team, usually in church
- 1 class worship
- 1 whole school singing worship

Pupils lead reflection and prayers, related to the value of the term, during one of the weekly whole school worships; for older pupils this involves playing a leading role in the collective worship for that day. Prayers for each weekly rector's worship are created by School Values Ambassadors with guidance from the School Prayers Coordinator (a member of staff). Pupils have the opportunity to contribute their own prayer requests in each classroom; these are collected by the School Prayers Coordinator and incorporated into one of the weekly whole school worships. Parents join whole school worship in the church usually led by the clergy to celebrate Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. On the last day of each year, pupils in Year 6 lead a Leavers' Service in the church. A Community Worship is held termly (6 times a year) to which parents, carers, friends and neighbours are invited.

A quiet atmosphere is maintained throughout worship including coming into and leaving the worship area. When worship is in the school hall, each class enters and sits around a central focus, usually a candle. Everyone sits quietly and listens to the music until the act of worship begins. Stillness is encouraged. The children remain seated until a teacher instructs them to move at the end of worship so they can appreciate the music at the end of worship. Benches and any other equipment are left in position until after the children have left so that the atmosphere of quietness and stillness is not broken.

Content

The worship themes for the year are planned by the headteacher and are based on the programme of Christian Values. Collective worship during the first week of each term focuses on the School Values. The themes for the rector's worship are planned by the rector after consultation with the headteacher.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the child following consultation with the head teacher. In addition, members of staff have a legal right to withdraw from this activity and should notify the headteacher, in writing, of this decision.

Roles and Responsibilities

The school must provide a daily collective act of worship for all registered pupils. Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. The headteacher, the rector and other Foundation governors monitor the implementation of this policy. The headteacher ensures that adequate resources are available. Teachers ensure that all children take part in the collective act of worship and that arrangements are made for any children who are withdrawn by parents; they ensure that no child is withdrawn without parental permission.

Head Teacher

Chair of Governors

Date of adoption: May 2017

Date of review: May 2018

