

Collective Worship Policy

Adisham Church of England Primary School

At Adisham Church of England Primary School we are driven by our deep rooted Christian commitment to the children's well-being and education. We want to develop a safe and exciting environment where all God's children flourish through opportunities and collaboration in a nurturing environment to become lifelong learners.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Truth, Respect, Compassion and Friendship and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and directors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

"Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes." (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican: *(delete as appropriate)*

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: see Appendix 1. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school

community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet daily for Worship as a whole school, in the school hall. Below is an example of rota that we follow.

Term 6: Collective Worship: Communication

Tuesday: Worship through song

	Theme	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 03.06.19	All Change A New Term Life's Changes OR Madeline Great Explosions- The Holy Spirit OR Rip up the Rubbish	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Kate & Lorraine (D Day ann)	Jenny & Lisa
Week 2 10.06.19	Changing Seasons Bags for seasons Changing seasons - feelings Liturgical Colours of Church	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Rev T Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 3 17.06.19	Changing the Lives of Others My Dad's bigger than your Dad! OR Supporting Others Loving one Another Be Imitators OR Throwing Stones	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 4 24.06.19	Jesus Changes Lives Jesus cares - How many sweets in the jar? Matthew the tax collector- Respect OR Nicodemus A Changed Person (Paul)	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Rev T Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 5 01.07.19	Miraculous Changes Quiz Walking on Water A Child's Lunch OR Peter and John cure a Man	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 6 08.07.19	Changing the World Don't Mess it Up Our Amazing World Sowing Seeds	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 7 15.07.19	Challenging Changes Coping with Change Crossing Bridges One More Step OR Preparing to Move on	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Rev T Kate & Lorraine	Jenny & Lisa
Week 8 22.07.19	End of Term Changes The Future Holidays Moving On with Elisha OR Moving On /Ru?/	Sam	Laura	Abi & Teresa	Leaver's Service 2pm Church	

School council monitoring of CW in Week 3.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama and use of IT.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- *Engage* – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)
- *Send* – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

Expectations of pupils

Pupils regularly plan and support worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. Please see below for an example of our Lighting the Candle Group.

Lighting the candle Group

<u>Day</u>	<u>Pupils</u>
Monday	Poppy and Erin
Tuesday	Mia and Ellie
Wednesday	Amelia and Elodie
Thursday	William and Ruby
Friday	Ruby and Holly

Each day our pupils lead Collective Worship by lighting the candle and saying a prayer.

The School Council also take the lead on special celebrations such as Harvest and the Christingle services.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and directors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our open door policy and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis (Please see Appendix 2 for the monitoring sheets that we use). These are shared with our Church School Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury (SIAMS).

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Directors should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Directors, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Directors

Date of review..... Signed.....
Chair of Directors