



# Churchill CEVC Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

*With kind hearts and determined minds, we inspire each other to be the best we can be.*

Written by	Headteacher
Ratified by	Curriculum and Community Policy
Date last reviewed	November 2020
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Signed – Chair of Governors	<i>Sally Furniss</i>
Signed – Headteacher	<i>Lorraine Woolven</i>

# Churchill Church of England Primary School

*With kind hearts and determined minds, we inspire each other to be the best we can be.*

*This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School*



## **COVID 19 addendum**

Whilst acts of collective worship continue to play an important role in our school day, due to COVID 19 restrictions we are no longer able to come together as one whole community for worship. We are also unable to invite into school the Open the Book team of volunteers.

To maintain our acts of daily worship we:

- Access the Open the Book materials and offer services in our classes or bubble groups
- Have time allocated for worship and reflection daily in our classes
- Conduct celebration worship in three bubble structures led by the Head teacher.
- Use a battery powered candle to signify the start of our worship.

## **Collective Worship – Policy**

### **Introduction**

As a Church school, we embrace the opportunity for collective worship as it enables our children to have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. At its heart, Collective Worship should provide opportunity for pupils and staff to come together to reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God.

At Churchill CEVC Primary School, we gather daily to worship and celebrate being together as a school community. In our acts of worship we reflect, individually and as a group, on the mystery and wonder of the known and unknown world in which we live. Our collective worship is broadly but not exclusively Christian, consistent with our Christian foundation. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship (for example festivals, holy days etc). A range of ministers from different denominations are invited to lead worship. As we are a Church of England Voluntary Controlled school we welcome the wider perspective provided by other Christian denominations.

### **Aims**

We seek to offer collective worship that not only fulfils the requirements of our church school status but also provides:

- an opportunity for an experience of worship of a broadly Christian nature;
- to reflect on values and concerns of the school and wider community;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to create moments of peace which are conducive to reflection;
- to deepen and widen a child's emotional response;
- to enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:

We use the bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and support pupils to become familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of stillness and peace. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

### **Connections with other local churches**

We have strong links with both our local churches; St Mary's and St John's. Members of both church communities support the leadership and the continued growth of the Christian ethos of our school through an active ethos committee. In addition to regular Church visits, we are hoping to

reinitiate services led in school by the Reverend to help provide further coherence between worship in church and school. We also enjoy weekly 'Open the Book' services led by members of Church Community.

### **Planning**

Our collective worship themes are organised on a 3 year cycle following weekly themes for whole school services and based on the Old and New Testament stories. We use bible stories, poetry, fable and legend, world events to support our worship programme and to engage us all in reflection and consideration of the meaning of life. Music, art and photographs often illustrate difficult concepts in ways which words cannot. Foundation governors support the headteacher in the monitoring and updating of worship themes. A selection of books are kept in the head teacher's office and these are bought from the annual budget allocation. Artefacts used for worship are handled with respect and stored in the reprographics room. We use a candle prayer to mark the start of our worship. We frequently use the school prayer to end worship.

### **Organisation**

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school, class or key stage groups. The Headteacher and other members of the school team lead our daily worship. We also enjoy weekly 'Open the Book' services led by members of Church Community.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

Our Friday celebration service offers an opportunity to share children's achievements and to celebrate their successes. These play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school. During these services we recognise a citizen of the week. This special recognition offers pupils and adults an opportunity to share the values, attitudes and attributes of a member of the community and why they represent a special citizen in our community.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We are developing our monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by continuing to keep records of: the purpose and focus; hymns sung; prayers and bible connections. Surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness is a developing part of our practice. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship to ensure it fulfils the aims of this policy. Members of the Governing Body, including the Foundation governors, regularly join our worship and are taking a fuller role in the monitoring and evaluation process.

### **Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all.

When parents do not wish their children to participate in collective worship they are asked to arrange a meeting with the headteacher to discuss the matter. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship but the school is still responsible for those pupils.

Teachers are required to attend worship as part of their conditions of service. However, they are not obliged to attend or participate in acts of worship. Any teacher wishing to withdraw from worship must discuss the matter with the headteacher.

### **Conclusion**

Worship is an important part of our school day, and we want children to feel secure and relaxed during this special time. Through worship we offer pupils an opportunity to worship God, consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs. Worship develops and promotes a common ethos of shared values and positive attitudes.

Signed: *Wendy Kumm*

(Chair of Curriculum and Community Committee)

Date: November 2020