



Christ Church C.E. Primary School- Collective Worship Policy

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in terms of Collective Worship. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the Religious Education policy and with guidance produced by the Church of England on Collective Worship (latest published in 2021 [Latest Collective Worship guidance](#)).

The Church of England states that Collective Worship in a Church of England school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress (see Appendix 1).
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Agreed Procedure:

- Acts of Worship at Christ Church CE Primary School must be of a **broadly Christian character**, reflecting the broad traditions of **Christian belief**, and have regard for the **age, aptitude and family background** of pupils
- Formal Collective Worship – children are encouraged to plan & lead worship on a regular basis, this takes place within classrooms and through the School Worship Council who comprise around 20 children from Y1 to Y6 who meet monthly to plan and lead an act of worship based on the monthly value (see the Appendix for a list of values).

Monday- Seesaw (Seesaw is an online application platform) worship time led by Mrs Amy Martin focusing on encouraging reflection and response

Tuesday- Seesaw worship time using Hereford Diocese weekly materials led by Mr Mark Harrington from Diocese with a focus on Church Year and Festivals and Hereford Diocesan themes of Year of Prayer and Year of Faith (2024).

Wednesday- Seesaw worship time led by the headteacher and/or by pupils with a focus on the Christian value of that month. Once a half term there is a School Council meeting. One of the four school councils, Worship Council actively evaluates and monitors the Worship life of the school.

Thursday- Whole school worship in the Hall- focusing on the Christian value of the month, the liturgical year or a festival led by the headteacher with clergy input when available.

Friday- Whole school celebration worship in the Hall focusing on how children have demonstrated that month's value in their learning and behaviour- led by the headteacher with parents invited to participate when their children have won awards. This means parents have at least two invited per academic year to school collective worship.

- Worship themes are chosen to reflect the school's Christian Values, help children to understand the 'Big Story of the Bible', special events in the life of the school and community, Christian festivals together with festivals and values from other religions. Topical events e.g. natural disasters in the news, charity appeals, outside guests, etc. are included as appropriate.
- School has a prayer which is often used at the opening or closing of worship time: *This day may we know the love of God our Father, the gift of God's own Son, the Servant King and the freedom of God's Holy Spirit. Amen.*
- Sung worship is an important part of reflection and response and school have a repertoire of worship songs which the children know, enjoy and which build up our common life. Pupils and staff are invited to take part in prayers. The following phrases are used "we are going to say a prayer, if you want to join in you can say 'Amen' at the end or you can be quiet and use the time to reflect."
- Silence may be used to reflect on the issue explored rather than voicing a prayer in words
- Pupils will be encouraged to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas
- Pupils will be encouraged to participate in an active way by joining with singing and prayers, making music, reading chosen passages or their own prayers and dramatising chosen stories
- Music is used and part of a worship time may involve listening to a piece of music which has inspired others. This serves to set the mood for spiritual development when children may reflect on their own beliefs and those of others.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship
- Teachers and headteachers retain their right not to participate in acts of worship but we actively encourage all to attend
- Opportunities to take part in festivals and church special days such as ashing at Ash Wednesday and joining in sharing bread during Holy Week to understand the Last Supper, are provided
- The children regularly monitor and evaluate our worship life as part of Worship Council

Is this working?

- Is our collective worship inclusive, inspiring and invitational?
- Do visitors to our worship time feel the sense of our school as a caring community?
- Do the children value our times of collective worship?
- Are the children proud to stand up and celebrate in worship time?
- Do the children actively involve themselves at worship time?



Appendix 1: Our Christian Values

As a church school Christ Church aims to develop its religious character taking into account the principles of the Church of England and to promote Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils.

Our Christian values run through everything we do and they guide us in our decision making and our future plans. They support us in delivering our vision.

Our eleven Christian values were carefully chosen after consulting with our school community including, pupils, staff, parents and governors.

Our Christian values, include the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths & beliefs.

Month of the Year	Value	By this we mean . . .	A symbol	Link Biblical Story	Biblical Quote
September	Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking care of our own things • Being prepared & doing our own learning • Being independent, taking on jobs 	A book bag	The Good Samaritan (taking responsibility for others) Luke 10:25-37 New Testament	“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” John 13: 34-35
October	Truthfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being honest • Telling the truth, even when it’s difficult • Making the right choice 	A light bulb	The story of Joseph – Josephs brothers lie about his death Genesis 37: 17-33 Old Testament	“Do not tell lies about others.” Exodus 20:16 (9 th commandment)
November	Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having fun, playing & sharing • Caring about each other & showing it • Helping & supporting each other 	Linked hands: different skin colours	Friends bring a paralysed man to Jesus	“A friend loves at all times.”

Month of the Year	Value	By this we mean . . .	A symbol	Link Biblical Story	Biblical Quote
				Mark 2:1-12 New Testament	Proverbs 17:17
December	Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling secure, safe & calm • Sitting, standing, walking & talking well at school • Getting along with each other 	Dove- with olive branch?	The angels sing of peace on earth when Jesus is born Luke 2: 8-16 New Testament	“Try to earn the respect of others and do your best to live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12: 17-18
January	Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuing our differences • Being polite; using kind words, kind hearts & kind actions • Treating others (& things) as you would like to be treated 	The World	The Ten Commandments Exodus 20 Old Testament	“Respect and honour God – this is the beginning of wisdom.” Proverbs 1:7
February	Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing what we say we will • Being reliable • Working together 	Anchor	The Storm on the Lake Matthew 8:23-27 New Testament	“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.” John 14:1
March	Forgiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying sorry • Making friends again & moving on • Being understanding 	Water	Parable of the Unjust Steward Luke 16: 1-13 New Testament	“Be compassionate and kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32
April	Perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always having a go and trying your best • Keeping on trying when it’s tricky • Aiming high & having a positive attitude 	Shoe with laces	Story of the Lost Sheep Luke 15: 3-7	“We must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us.”

Month of the Year	Value	By this we mean . . .	A symbol	Link Biblical Story	Biblical Quote
				New Testament	Hebrews 12:1
May	Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being brave & strong • Doing something that is scary • Being confident to express own views, standing up for others, speaking up 	Lion	David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17 Old Testament	“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9
June	Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being kind, caring & thoughtful • Treating others as we would like to be treated • Being tolerant & sensitive 	Heart	Jesus giving the Greatest Commandment Mark 12: 28-34 New Testament	“Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12
July	Thankfulness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being polite & saying thank you • Appreciating others • Appreciating the world around us, even the small things 	Present with bow	Jesus heals ten men with leprosy Luke 17: 11-19 New Testament	“Give thanks in all circumstances.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Appendix 2: Our Shared Understanding of Spirituality which underpins our life of Collective Worship

We plan opportunities for spiritual development in both curriculum time and in collective worship. This is our agreed definition of spirituality:

