

Chapmanslade

Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Chapmanslade CE VA Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School and as such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be ‘in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England’. Worship is integral to the life of the school and is a vital part of the ethos and daily life of the school. It supports the school’s Christian Vision:

“Love your neighbour as yourself”

Luke 10:25-37

We believe that our Collective Worship should enhance and promote our vision. We define collective worship as worship that reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience that is special and separate from other daily activities and bring our school community together. We also believe in the importance of Spirituality for all stakeholders; modelling to and encouraging all pupils to be question askers. Collective worship contributes to all of the above as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

Aims

- To strengthen and support the school ethos and community and celebrate each unique individual member as made in the image of God;
- To provide an opportunity and experience of giving praise to God and the experience of drawing near to God in stillness and quiet and prayer;
- To encourage reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human being;
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, developing their understanding and practice of key values;
- To help children explore and develop their own spirituality;
- To model being good neighbours to others:
 - fostering and enabling concern for the needs of others – recognition of God’s concern for every individual and the ways that we can contribute to expressing this compassion;
 - fostering concern for the needs of the world and a sense of wonder and compassion for the whole of Creation.

To provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:

- Become confident in worship, both individual and communal;
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism and explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith;
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. This might include - praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, and quiet reflection;
- To understand the nature and purpose of worship and enjoy taking part;
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future;
- To deepen understanding of Christian Values;
- To make links with local, wider and worldwide communities;

- To celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school and local and international communities;
- To foster an understanding of how other faiths share fundamental similarities with Christianity.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We follow a two-year rotation of values, working closely with our clergy and church, St Philip and St James. Where possible, we take joy in holding services in the church for our pupils and parents.

Our Christian Values are *generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, respect, thankfulness, trust, perseverance, justice, service* and *truthfulness*.

We hold a daily Collective Worship in school (see schedule below), including regular reflection time focused on our current Christian Value. We model *windows, mirrors and doors* thinking, encouraging our pupils to look outwards at the world, reflect back on our lives and act – do something because of what they have learned. When pupils are observed taking action related to our Christian Value, they are awarded a *Value Leaf*, which goes on our *Values Tree*. This is then celebrated at the end of term.

- Mondays: Headteacher's Collective Worship
- Tuesdays: Teacher Lead Collective Worship
- Wednesdays: Class-Based Collective Worship
- Thursdays: Local Clergy members' Collective Worship
- Fridays: Reflective Collective Worship on current Christian Value. We also hold an additional Celebration Assembly on Fridays.

At the beginning of each Collective Worship, a pupil is invited to light a candle upon our special altar cloth, saying the words: ***"Come to us with light O God"*** all pupils then respond ***"Be with us this day"***.

Our worship usually take place within the school hall, however a number of services a year are held in our neighbouring church, St Philip and St James'. Children are encouraged to be fully involved in all elements of Collective Worship. Our Collective Worship monitors occasionally take responsibility for helping to planning and lead worship.

Planning across the year is balanced to include:

- Creation of an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols with expectation of quietness and stillness suitable for all ages and abilities;
- Acknowledgement of God at the heart of every act of worship, reflecting compassion, love, inclusion, care for every individual, of all backgrounds and faiths, - in school and local community and the world-wide community;
- Use of appropriate, varied and creative approaches to the themes;
- Enabling those present to draw near to God in prayer and stillness; developing personal and corporate spiritual depth and understanding;
- Reflecting broad Anglican heritage in the use of known responses to begin and end worship and prayers including *The Lord's Prayer* and *The Grace*;
- To encourage familiarity and understanding of the cycle of the Church Year – it's holy days and festivals;
- Familiarity with silence and meditation used in a church setting;
- To increase familiarity and understanding of our part with the local church and community – the Diocese, Cathedral, Church and Community worldwide;
- Time to reflect on the truth sought through stories and teaching of the Bible and the interpretation of how this may relate to ourselves;
- Time and flexibility to respond to individual and corporate pastoral issues;
- Acknowledgement of the central part the Eucharist plays in Anglican worship, as appropriate;

- Recognising the breadth and strength of commitment in the Anglican Church to ecumenism, which may be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to contribute to collective worship;
- Recognising the breadth and strength that visitors can bring to the enhance the life opportunities for all children (e.g. Wiltshire Library Services, Guide Dogs, Food Bank, Book Week, Role models from industry, etc);
- Opportunities for the school to explore its ethos through responding to school / regional / national issues (e.g. School Council Elections, Red Nose day, etc);
- Opportunity for children to make connections between Christianity and other faiths in order to foster understanding and acceptance.

An annual overview identifies the key themes for each term.

Each term is then broken down into an outline of each daily act of collective worship – but allows the flexibility to respond to any school / regional / national / global issue that may arise.

Statutory Requirements

Worship is at the heart of the Christian Values, especially **Compassion, Service, Courage** and **Trust**, on which the school is based. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998). The law states that ‘Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief’. We recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school. Collective Worship is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. In an aided school, the staff are expected to regularly attend the acts of collective worship.

British Values

The themes for Worship also reflect British Values, such as democracy, different forms of law, respect, combatting discrimination and making a positive contribution to society. Through Worship pupils are encouraged to understand and appreciate differences, including differences in religious belief and practice, sexuality, race, appearance, ability and cultural background and to recognise that all human beings are made in the image of God.

Cultural Capital

Through Collective Worship we can provide the children with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of ‘knowledge and cultural capital’ is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum: ‘It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.’ We will provide the children with occasions to hear, experience, learn about famous persons, places, music, inventions, art, and we will link these learning opportunities to our Christian Vision and Values.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended, members of the academy council or visitors. A range of strategies are used by staff to assess the outcomes of collective worship including:

- Observation of the children’s attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions;
- Feedback from pupils;
- Parents’ comments (written and verbal);
- How pupils are being good neighbours around the school;

- Comments made by visitors to the school.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs.

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will benefit from collective worship. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

Review

Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2025