**Christ Church CEP Academy**

**Acts of Worship Policy**



***Striving to be the best version of ourselves every day.***

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|  | *Inspired by God’s love, we humbly strive to be* *the best version of ourselves every day, in every way.* *We cherish the dignity of each precious person:**thankfulness, friendship, forgiveness and hope* *are at the heart of our inclusive community.* |  |

November 2021

**Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of Friendship, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Hope and celebrates the central role that each child to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and recognises and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

**Aims**

Collective worship at Christ Church CEP Academy will support the school’s distinctive vision and supporting narrative, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

* to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
* to reflect on their own beliefs
* to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
* to encounter God in Jesus Christ
* to reflect in ways that areof a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
* to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
* to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
* to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
* to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
* to experience silence in a busy world
* to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

**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
* Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

* Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
* Celebrating Eucharist

**Implementation**

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupilsevery day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the schoolday and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage orclass.

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 Leadership Group and Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using a combination of bespoke planning around a theme, Canterbury Diocese Collective Worship Planning, and Twelve Baskets for in-class worship which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This includes 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.

During the week, we gather as a whole school community for Collective Worship at the beginning and end of each week. always supported by our Lead for Worship and pupil Worship Leaders. On these days, our youngest children sit with and are supported by their Buddies from Upper Key Stage Two. On Mondays, Collective Worship is led by the Head Teacher at the beginning and end of term, and weekly by other members of the Leadership or Management team. On Fridays, Collective Worship is led by by our vicar, Rev Bob, or Minister Lock, a lay minister from the Holy Trinity Benefice.

Once a week (Tuesdays or Thursdays), we also gather as a smaller class group for Collective Worship, led by the teacher and other adults in the class, worship leaders and the children themselves. Class worship is also regularly led by Kate McNeice, a vicar from the Benefice, or our Deputy Head Teacher, exploring our values and vision through the Bible story of Zacchaeus.

We also participate in Sung Worship once a week: Early Years and Key Stage One on

Tuesdays, and Key Stage Two on Thursdays.

The Act of Collective Worship on the remaining day (Wednesday for Early Years and Key Stage One, Thursday for Lower Key Stage Two and Upper Key Stage Two – held separately), is dedicated to celebrating our achievements and ‘life in all its fullness’.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, video clips, prayer, and talking with our partners and buddies.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

* *Gather* – we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of candles
* *Engage* – we share a bible reading and an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
* *Respond* – pupils discuss, share , reflect , pray or sing
* *Send* – we share 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 candles.

Our School Worship Leaders play a vital role in leading worship. They are made up of volunteer pupils from across the school who have applied for the position. They work with the Collective Worship Leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. They not only develop their own leadership but inspire and develop others by being role-models. They meet weekly on Friday mornings to plan and lead worship and some additional lunchtimes when extra time together is needed.

**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 governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires and play and 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.

**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 and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents*.* If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship they choose activities such as drawing or reading and are supervised by the office staff before re-joining their classes after worship.

Date of validation…………………… Signed………………………………………………….

 Chair of Governors

Date of review…………………… Signed………………………………………………….

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