



ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Worship leader- K Thomas

*"Shine bright and reach for the stars!"
"Enabling life in all its fullness"
"I came that you may have life, life in all its fullness"
(John10:10)*

Our Core Christian values for our school are: Perseverance, Creativity, Trust and Friendship.

Review date: 2027

Worship

Introduction

In church schools the act of worship must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. The Trust Deed is the original conveyance of land for the school and usually states that the land or property was given or bought in order to provide "religious instruction and worship according to the principles and practices of the Church of England."

The staff and governors at Ashton Keynes School see the main purpose of the school as that of providing an excellent education, both academic and social, in a Christian context and with a distinct Christian ethos for all its pupils.

Collective Worship is an important part of daily life of our school. It is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.¹ It is a moment to foster a sense of community and to express the school's Christian vision of Shine Bright and reach for the stars and "I came that you may have life, life in all its fullness" (John10:10)

Children visit our local church at various times throughout the year; representatives of the church lead worship in worship through 'Open the Book' as well as church services.

The Worship Council, which is made up of KS2 children, plan, organise and lead collective worship every term. They also monitor worship providing feedback on things that they enjoyed and would like to see more of. Children are invited to church activities and other family services taking place. These events are also mentioned on the head teacher's newsletter.

However, the school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in activities that will compromise their own and their family's beliefs. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.²

Ethos

We are concerned with the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children at our school. We wish to develop respect for each and every person's achievements and beliefs, encourage caring relationships within our school community, where each person feels welcome and valued, and

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf>

² Parents have been able to withdraw their children from collective worship since the 1944 Education Act and no recent legislation has affected this right. It is most recently confirmed in Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The government guidance document which remains current in the case of collective worship is Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.

prepare our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Our core values are: *creativity, friendship, trust and perseverance*.

Worship.

Through daily acts of worship we aim to provide an opportunity to express a sense of community and reinforce the Christian values the school holds.

Schools have a legal responsibility for the spiritual and moral education of our pupils and throughout acts of Collective Worship we aim to provide the opportunities for these issues to be raised.

Features of School Collective Worship

According to the church of England the ethos of collective worship should be **inclusive, invitational, and inspiring**.

Collective Worship should allow children to reflect upon and be aware of the spiritual writings, music and other art forms. Weekly worships will be based around Roots and Fruits programme by Imaginor which provides resources to fully support Christian worship as well as spiritual and moral development and Jumping Fish collective worship materials.³ Clearly rooting all learning in the Bible and the Church year, Roots and Fruits and Jumping Fish materials are designed to support SIAMS requirements and meets the criteria set out in the Evaluation Schedule.

Collective Worship should:

- Offers 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, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
 - 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.
 - Enable 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.
 - Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.
- Collective worship is to:
- be engaging, inspiring and transformational
 - include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol and drama

³ Jumping Fish- Values for life

Jumping Fish- Explore... An Artist's View of God in Collective Worship

Jumping Fish- Explore... Wise Ways for Living in Collective Worship

Jumping Fish- Explore... The Language of Spirituality in Collective worship

– develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and contribute to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of participants.

– provide a graduated structure for children to become leaders of collective worship

Worship will further develop the children's **spiritual development** through the approach of **Wows** (a sense of awe), **Ows** (looking at challenges and difficulties around them and in the wider world) and **Nows** (activities designed to develop being present in the present.) This material explores a range of values from a Christian perspective.

Each worship begins with a greeting, lighting of candles and on Thursdays bringing in of class candles. Worships will include some of the following praise or reflection through singing, prayers through the school prayer, a TeSPoon prayer or a child or adult's own choice and leaving can include active "Peace be with you" or The Grace, or a song.

The principal Christian beliefs are:

- The creation (incorporating ecology, pollution and stewardship of the earth's resources)
- Human failings (incorporating prejudice, alienation, cruelty and war)
- Jesus, as God's son, as born and lived on earth as a man. (incorporating ideas that all are valued regardless of race, age, sex and abilities.)
- The Trinity
- Death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. (incorporating personal faith, sin and forgiveness and the love of God)
- The Kingdom of God (incorporating justice, peace and harmony)

Aims

- To view worship as being relevant to everyday life
- To become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of our world.
- To develop awareness, toleration and appreciation of people and their different beliefs and cultures.
- To develop the idea of a 'school family' – celebrating achievement, helping each other and sharing problems.
- To enable children to experience what a 'believer' does, believes, thinks and behaves.
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder about our world.
- To reflect upon our own existence and the puzzling questions which life poses.
- To help children to understand that responsibilities as well as rights are essential for all.
- To explore feelings and how to deal with them.
- To develop and nurture a sense of spirituality through the wows, ows and nows idea.
- To explore spiritual development through the model of wows, ows and nows.

N.B Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship. Teachers' rights are also safeguarded.

Worship Council

Worship Council is made up of 7-8 children from KS2. Their role is to both lead some Collective Worships and monitor others. Each term they will plan, organise and lead a whole school Collective Worship. The format of their Collective Worships will be similar to that of others.

Worship council will monitor worship carrying out reviews which will be shared back with the staff. They will review several of each type of worship.

Equal opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing out common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the uniqueness and equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability remembering that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139 : 14).

Special Education Needs

The school is committed to ensuring that each child in the school derives some benefit from the collective worship regardless of their abilities. All children participate in worship according to their needs with inclusion being supported through actions and signing for example.

Organisation

Structure

As a Church of England school our school follows the information given in the SIAMS schedule of inspection in relation to Collective Worship. This states that Collective Worship should have a theological basis which:

- reflects local Anglican/Methodist traditions and practices (including the Holy Eucharist, where appropriate)
- introduces learners to Christian theological concepts and beliefs
- reflects the Trinitarian nature of Christianity
- gives biblical teaching a significant place in worship
- The key elements of an act of worship and the extent to which:
- the gathering for worship is enhanced by music, actions or symbols as well as by those leading worship
- the encouragement of worshippers is grounded in specifically Christian teaching
- worshippers respond in praise through their use of silence, songs, guided reflection, prayer and through their actions
- the sending out is enhanced by the worship leader and forms an appropriate conclusion to the act of worship

School worship will last approximately 20 minutes. Children will enter and leave in class groups quietly whilst listening to music. Opportunities for musicians to play sometimes will be given.

Year 5 and 6 will sit on benches. Year 5 will sit around the sides of the hall and Year 6 at the back of the hall. The other classes will sit on the floor. The setting up of the hall (Music, benches, PPT) will be organised and set out by year 6.

In the worship there will always be a hymn or worship song/ ISING pop song and a prayer. Children across the school will lead active praise in the form of singing and dancing to ISING pop worship songs. Each session of worship will start with a greeting (from the greetings cards) to the whole hall. The children will learn the school prayer, the Lord's Prayer (modern version) and the grace. These will also be used and displayed in class.

Content of collective worship will vary according to the time of the year. We will celebrate the major Christian festivals at the appropriate times of the year. Whole school worship will follow the 'Roots and Fruits' scheme as well as other Jumping Fish materials. This will allow them to explore, on a termly basis, a value from a Christian point of view.

Isingpop worship will use the Isingpop video materials which explore a 1 to 2 values over the course of term. Each video includes a Bible story, discussion, prayer and worship song.

In Celebration Worships children's work and achievements are shared with the school. Birthday stickers, certificates and awards will be presented and reviewed weekly.

The contents of worship may include drama, stories, poetry, short talks, art, music or dance. There will be opportunities for follow up work in the classroom particularly in reflection times.

TSP prayers and spontaneous praying

- In line with child participation within Collective Worship, children are encouraged to write/say their own prayers using the TSP format (thank you, sorry and please) which related to each Collective Worship and share them with the whole school. This links to the SIAMS schedule of inspection which states that prayer has a centrality of prayer to Collective Worship in that:
- learners understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- learners understand the part it plays within an individual's life and in the life of the worshipping community
- prayer contributes to learners' spiritual development
- appropriate opportunities are provided for prayer outside collective acts of worship for example the prayer areas outside in the Quiet area and in the Hub.

Timetable for collective worship

This timetable shows the typical structure of weekly worships. This may vary from time to time.

Monday	Worship led by Mrs Saville or Rev.d Shirley
Tuesday	1 st and last Tuesdays of each term will be an ISNG POP worship.

	Tuesdays in between this will be led by teachers using the Jumping Fish Values for Life materials linked to the value of that term
Wednesday	Singing worship +liturgy
Thursday	Celebration worship
Friday	Open the book worship*

*Open the book lead by the children and church representatives. This is on 3 out of 4 weeks. On the fourth week this Collective worship may be replaced by Class worship using ISINGPOP material or reflection on the impact of that term's worship (in the second to last Friday of each term). Class worship will be based around the theme for the term.

Several services will take place at the Church over the course of the year. Parents will be invited to some of these.

Harvest church service
 Christmas church service
 Easter church service
 Leaver's church service

Support is given by the school to our out of school hours church services e.g. Christingle.

At the end of each term there will be a Hero and Heroines worship here the parents are invited to celebrate the successes of their children over that term. This will follow the format of a Celebration. The leavers' service at the end of the school year will also be shared with parents. Each class will have the chance to produce a class worship over the course of the year which will also be shared with their parents.

Festivals and celebrations are included at appropriate times of the year linking with events outside of school and thinking. This will also support our global advocacy. Visitors will at times lead Workshops linked to specific charities or events.

The 'Roots and Fruits' / 'Jumping Fish' themes are changed on a half termly basis.

Year B 2022-2023	thankfulness	trust	perseverance	justice	service	truthfulness
Year A 2023-2024	generosity	compassion	courage	forgiveness	friendship	respect
Year B 2024-2025	thankfulness	trust	perseverance	justice	service	truthfulness
Year A 2025-2026	generosity	compassion	courage	forgiveness	friendship	respect

Parental involvement

- Parents are invited to attend the monthly Hero and Heroine Collective Worship . The dates for these are shared on the weekly newsletter for parents.

- Each class will have a yearly class where they show their work to the rest of the school and parents.
- On the school website there is a values section. The values section will contain a Home School Value sheet. This sheet contains stories, activities and games that children can share with their parents while exploring that term's value.

Success criteria

- Children show an awareness of the nature of religious commitment, whether to Christianity or to another religion.
- Children show sensitivity towards the religious commitment of others whatever that may be.
- A peaceful, reflective atmosphere prevails.
- Children participate freely and enthusiastically.
- A range of strategies are used to engage the interest of children.
- Children generally behave sensibly in and around the school.

Resources

We have a wide range of books, pictures and artefacts stored upstairs in the stock room. The Roots and Fruits file is kept in Mrs Saville's office. Each teacher has been given a copy of the Values. Themes are displayed in the classroom on posters which are made by Worship Council.