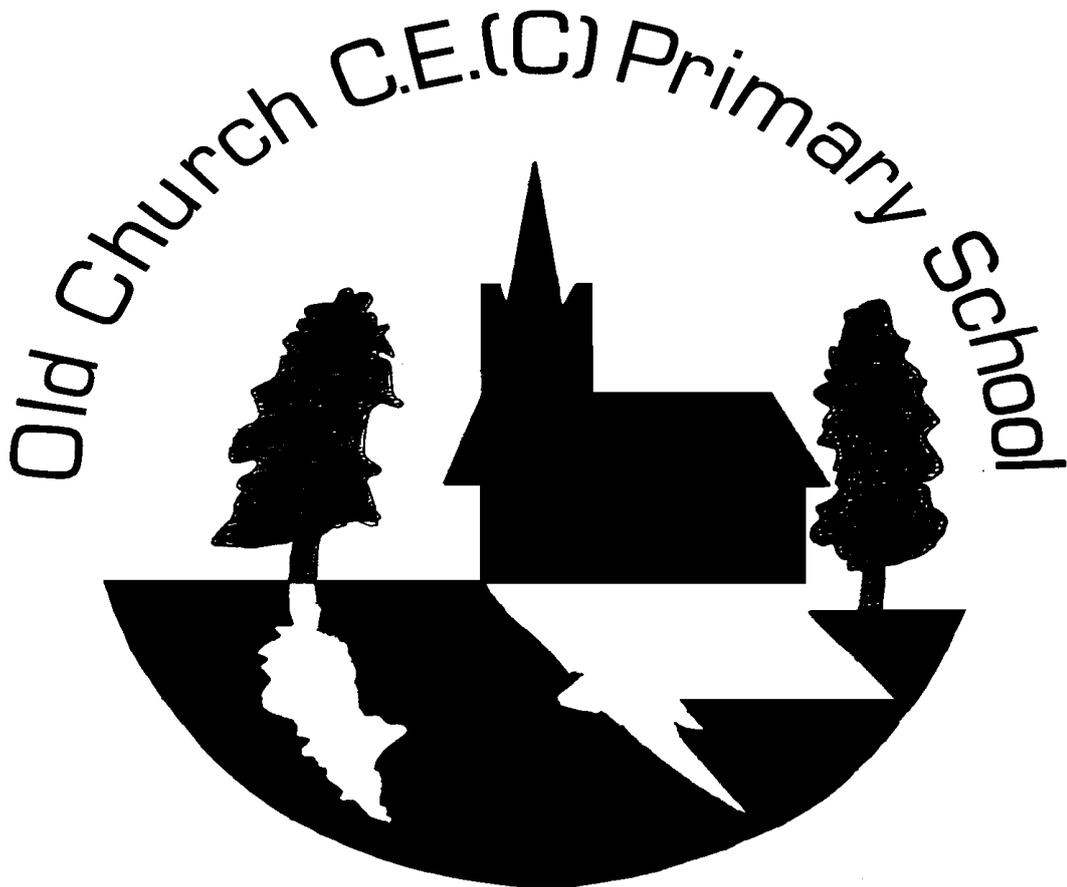


Policy For Worship



Worship in School

The Trust Deed requires that worship be conducted in accordance with the principles of the established Church in England.(1857)

Worship means to give honour and reverence to a supreme being. It is one important way of exploring the spiritual, and a gateway to religious experiences. It is an activity of response. Children will explore worship and learn about rituals, symbols, festivals and beliefs in an open atmosphere and share collectively in varied responses - which may include:-

- awareness of beauty and goodness
- sense of awe
- sense of responsibility
- thankfulness
- sense of community
- empathy
- thinking of others
- values affirmed
- reflection
- engagement with problems
- sense of spirituality
- sense of God

Aims

1. To promote the children's spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.
(It must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character and reflect the Anglican establishment of the school)
2. To explore the relationships with other Christian traditions .
3. To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
4. To encourage worship with the local Church community.
5. To consider spiritual and moral issues.
6. To foster reflection and empathy.
7. To provide the opportunity for pupils to explore their personal faith.
8. To develop community spirit.
9. To promote a common ethos and shared values.
10. To reinforce positive attitudes.

Worship should affirm Christian Belief:

- a) It should affirm Christian belief in Father, Son and Holy Spirit and reflect Church of England teachings.
- b) It should provide a framework of exploring moral issues. These are linked to our school values
- c) It should honour the Church Foundation of the school and enable the pupils to have access to a significant amount of explicit worship of a Christian kind. (Sensitivity will be needed as to what is offered to ensure suitability in terms of content, level and age. Family background will also need to be catered for.)

A Church School has responsibility for enabling pupils to make a link between collective worship in the school and the corporate life of the local Church. Use of the Church calendar and the individualism of Christian faith are seen in relationship to one another. The church calendar is displayed centrally in the Hall where worship takes place.

An assembly may contain some non-Christian elements and may include elements common to Christianity and one or more other religions without it being deprived of being 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' At the point of worship only Christian traditions will be encompassed .

The Character of Collective Worship

Worship should be as inclusive as possible within the statements of "The Trust Deed"

- a) It should be related to the pupils' own experiences and relevant pupils' concerns.
- b) It should foster a spirit of community within the school.
- c) It should acknowledge diversity and encourage mutual respect.
- d) It should enable all pupils time to gather, to be still and reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity and be a time to refresh the spirit.

Worship should be educational.

- a) It should enable quality learning experiences that are properly prepared, executed, evaluated, co-ordinated and resourced.
- b) It can be developed in cross-curricular themes.
- c) It should realise the educational aims of a Church school.
- d) It should heighten aesthetic awareness and enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism, the arts and religious language; to express feelings and belief, particularly within Christianity.

Good Practice in Collective Worship should include:-

- i) use of themes with variety and coherence
- ii) variation and balance in the style of the experience
- iii) a clear pattern known to pupils
- iv) coherence with the rest of the curriculum
- v) variety of leaders in worship
- vi) variety of words, music and images
- vii) provision of opportunity for pupils to participate in and respond to ,encouraging reflection and expression

(The themes for Worship are planned by Rector Liz Jones and the Headteacher on a termly basis. These are based around a theme mostly based on a Bible story and linked to moral themes.)

It is important when creating an act of worship to make it both relevant for the pupils and manageable for the staff. The following structure is offered as a guide.

- 1) Decide upon a subject
- 2) Relate it to the child's experience
- 3) Use that experience to explore the core religious significance
- 4) Make time for reflecting on personal relevance, prayer, etc.

Curriculum

The cycle of themes is based upon a discrete themes and linked to our school VALUES which provides opportunity for both Christian and other faith beliefs to be explored.

Organisation

Collective Worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for, and to include all pupils. It may be organised in accordance with any of the following groups:-

Whole School

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 2

Year Groups

Class Groups

Song and Praise

Family Worship at St Lawrence's Church

Situation

Worship may take place in the school hall, class base or church. Consideration should be given to the manner in which pupils enter and leave. Icons are used in classes to symbolise the beginning of worship.

The Lord's Prayer is in each classroom along with other prayers. Each classroom has a Prayer Bag. (The school council has asked that a new school prayer is selected. We currently use the 'Thank you' prayer. This will be in the planning for 2017-18. There will also be a site on the Learning Platform for Prayers for all occasions.)

Assembly is taken by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Visiting Reverend, Class Teacher or Visitor.

Time 15 minutes per day.

Assessment

Worship will be judged by **OFSTED** in relation to the law - "The Trust Deed", its Christian content and its contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. In Church schools the SIAMS Inspection will also judge the Anglican character of Christian Worship and its contribution to the Church ethos of the school.

Summary

Daily acts of worship should be at the heart of school life and are a firm indication of the school's attitude towards the spiritual, moral and social development of the child. Christian belief can be affirmed and valued as a foundation of the school and the community involved.

Appendix 1 Principles of Assembly/Collective Worship

Assemblies should be inclusive:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- They should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- They should match the needs of pupils
- They should foster a sense of community

Assemblies should be educational. They should:

- Be learning experiences
- Related to pupils own experiences

- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities in particular match to the School VALUES
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational and personal achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Assemblies should be spiritual:

- Time to be still and reflect
- A special time – conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- They should include a variety of words, music and images
- They should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection

Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

Date: May 18th 2017

Review Date: May 2019