

# Worship Policy

**The Richard Crosse Church of England Primary School**

**The St. Mary's Church of England Primary School**

<b>Author</b>	Harriet Jennings
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<b>Statutory Policy</b>	Yes
<b>Publication</b>	Internal Drive and Website

Collective worship is central to the life of the school, it offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character, which is reflected in our motto "Believe and Achieve." It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational. Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants. Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all members of the school community. It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs. The Board of Directors in conjunction with the Head Teacher, staff, and school community have a responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

### **Legal Requirements**

All children take part in a daily act of worship

Planning is carried out by the Worship Co-ordinator and is led by all members of staff. We ensure there is a breadth and variety of subject-matter and delivery, and collective worship is broadly Christian. The Rector ensures that important church festivals and Saints' days are not overlooked.

Although children come largely from a white, middle-class background, comparatively few children come from church-going families, and, therefore, no assumptions are made about prior knowledge and understanding. Regular visits to Church for services introduce children to the idea of church worship and appropriate behaviour, respect for their surroundings and reverence to a deity.

Parents may request their children's withdrawal from collective worship. Any children so withdrawn will be supervised by a member of staff.

### **The aims of collective worship:**

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Worship is:  
acknowledging the presence  
of God.

Worship involves:  
learning from some of the  
formal traditions of religious life,  
such as prayer, singing hymns and  
responding to scripture and story.

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Worship is:  
exploring and affirming experiences  
which transcend the immediate and  
mundane.

Worship is:  
providing opportunities for personal  
reflection on the spiritual dimension  
of life.

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## **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 the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and reflect Church of England teachings.
- b) It should provide a framework of exploring moral issues.
- 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.)

In collective worship we aim to provide a time in the day, apart from other school activities, when children can reflect on matters of importance in their lives, on events, or feelings, or relationships, or faith. Children are encouraged to think spiritually of wonders beyond their understanding. There is an opportunity to sing together and to pray together.

We expect collective worship to strengthen the bonds of affection between one child and another, between one adult and another and between children and adults. We hope to deepen the sense of community within the school, and contribute to the values of care and consideration, trust and truthfulness, love and respect. Collective worship seeks to include all, to share what we have in common and to respect such differences as we recognise.

## **The Character of Collective Worship**

### **Worship should be as inclusive as possible**

- 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.

### **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.
- viii) Spontaneity of expression and spiritual sensitivity.

## **Curriculum**

At the heart of our academy are a set of core Christian Values; Love, Respect and Friendship, the development and understanding of these are rooted in all worships and curriculum opportunities. In addition our Worships are based around different Christian Values and are rotated half termly to allow for deeper understanding and application. These underpin our whole ethos, curriculum and school life and aim to ensure our pupils leave the academy as happy, secure, confident, caring and responsible citizens. The values we promote are important within the school community and are values which will be important throughout life. In all that we do we strive to share, encourage and demonstrate positive values with our children; in order that they understand them and strive to live by them.

An annual cycle of themes is based upon a discrete theme of VALUES and is closely planned with PSHE which provides opportunity for both Christian and other faith beliefs to be explored. Themes are listed in Appendix 1.

## **Management of Collective Worship**

The Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The worship coordinator has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school. A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning. Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants. The themes and values to be explored through worship times each term/year will be decided in advanced and shared with pupils and their parents.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Records of plans and content are kept centrally on the staff shared drive. It is the responsibility of the worship co-ordinator to ensure that these are kept updated. There is a section on each day's planning for annotation and comments. In addition, children take on a central role when evaluating worship, each day they fill in a worship diary detailing the leader, theme, songs and prayers from the worship.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils and parents. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. A negotiated budget ensures that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The worship co-ordinator keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development (See Appendix 2 – TSSMAT Action Plan). The Headteacher and worship co-ordinator are aware of the requirements of section 48, (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

## **Right to Withdrawal**

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

## **Current Practice**

The pattern for worship each week is as follows; Whole school staff led worship four out of the five days, with one day for Achievement worship where parents are invited to join us. In addition the school worships in Church on the following occasions; Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and the Year 6 Leavers Service. Parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions. Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis, for example we have forged links with the monks from the local Buddhist Temple and also have regular visits from local police and other outside agencies.

## **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 -

**Long Term Plan for Collective Worship, linked with Christian Values**

**Overarching School Christian Values**

**Love, Respect and Friendship**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Christian Value</u>	<u>Church Services/ Significant Christian Festivals</u>	<u>Linked Bible Stories</u>	<u>Special days/ festivals from around the world and other religions</u>
Autumn Term 1 2016	<b>Community</b>	Harvest Festival	Rich man and Lazarus – Luke 16: 19 – 31	<a href="#">Interfaith week of prayer for world peace – moveable date</a>
Autumn Term 2 2016	<b>Thankfulness</b>	Christingle Advent Christmas Day	A thankful Leper – Luke 17:11 - 19	Remembrance Sunday - held on the second Sunday, which is usually the Sunday nearest to 11 November. Children in Need – BBC - moveable date <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/fundraising/index.shtml">www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/fundraising/index.shtml</a> National Anti-bullying Week – moveable date <a href="http://www.antibullyingweek.co.uk">www.antibullyingweek.co.uk</a> Advent - Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to 30 November Christmas Day (25 December)
Spring Term 1 2017	<b>Forgiveness</b>	Epiphany (6 January)  Week of prayer for Christian unity (18 – 25 January)	The conversion of Saul – Acts 9: 1 – 19 The Prodigal son	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) <a href="http://www.hmd.org.uk">www.hmd.org.uk</a>
Spring Term 2 2017	<b>Hope</b>	Mother's Day Easter Eucharist Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent  Mothering Sunday - moveable date – the fourth Sunday of lent  Palm Sunday - in the Christian calendar, the Sunday before	A soldiers Faith – Luke 7	Fairtrade Fortnight – starts late February – go to <a href="http://www.fairtrade.org.uk">www.fairtrade.org.uk</a>  Chinese New Year – (moveable date) – The year of the ??? go to <a href="http://www.chinese.new-year.co.uk">www.chinese.new-year.co.uk</a> Comic Relief – RED NOSE DAY – moveable date <a href="http://www.comicrelief.com">www.comicrelief.com</a>

		<p>Easter, sixth and last Sunday in Lent, and the first day of Holy Week.</p> <p>Holy Week Maundy Thursday Good Friday Easter Day</p>		
Summer Term 1 2017	<b>Peace</b>	<p>Ascension Day - 40 days after Easter</p> <p>Pentecost – Whitsuntide – 50 days after Easter <a href="http://www.refuel.org.uk">www.refuel.org.uk</a></p> <p>Trinity Sunday – the first Sunday after Pentecost</p>	Jesus calms the storm	<p>Christian Aid Week (moveable date) <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk">www.christianaid.org.uk</a></p> <p>Wesak (moveable date) – Buddhist</p>
Summer Term 2 2017	<b>Trust</b>	<p>Institution of Holy Communion (CE) or Corpus Christi (RC) (60 days after Easter)</p>	Jesus heals the blind man – John 9	
Autumn Term 1 2017	<b>Responsibility</b>		God gives humans the responsibility of caring for the world – Genesis 2: 4 - 20	<a href="#">Interfaith week of prayer for world peace – moveable date</a>
Autumn Term 2 2017	<b>Service</b>			<p>Remembrance Sunday - held on the second Sunday, which is usually the Sunday nearest to 11 November.</p> <p>Children in Need – BBC - moveable date</p>

				<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/fundraising/index.shtml">www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/fundraising/index.shtml</a> National Anti-bullying Week – moveable date <a href="http://www.antibullyingweek.co.uk">www.antibullyingweek.co.uk</a> Advent - Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to 30 November Christmas Day (25 December)
Spring Term 1 2018	<b>Justice</b>		Naboth's Vineyard 1 Kings – 21 The Parable of the sheep and the goats – Matthew 25: 31 - 45	Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) <a href="http://www.hmd.org.uk">www.hmd.org.uk</a>
Spring Term 2 2018	<b>Courage</b>			Fairtrade Fortnight – starts late February – go to <a href="http://www.fairtrade.org.uk">www.fairtrade.org.uk</a>  Chinese New Year – (moveable date) – The year of the ??? go to <a href="http://www.chinese.new-year.co.uk">www.chinese.new-year.co.uk</a>  Comic Relief – RED NOSE DAY – moveable date <a href="http://www.comicrelief.com">www.comicrelief.com</a>
Summer Term 1 2018	<b>Compassion</b>		The Good Samaritan	Christian Aid Week (moveable date) <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk">www.christianaid.org.uk</a>  Wesak (moveable date) – Buddhist
Summer Term 2 2018	<b>Reverence</b>			