

Christ Church School Worship Policy

This policy has been written and agreed by the head teacher, the clergy at Christ Church and the Governing Body, who have responsibility for worship at the school.

The Christian character of our school is reflected in our regular worship and in the signs and symbols that are seen around our school; a cross can be seen on entering the school and in the hall.

Our act of collective worship, which is part of our daily assembly, is a very important part of the day at Christ Church.

We believe that it is important to come together as a whole school to celebrate, discuss, share and think and also to praise, worship and pray together.

All of our **worship** is Christian, worshipping God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, following the traditions of the Church of England. Information about other faiths and beliefs is sometimes included in our assemblies.

We always try to sing a hymn as part of our act of worship as we believe this is an important part of praising God. We pray together every day as part of each act of collective worship: sometimes the Lord's Prayer or the school prayer, or prayers are led by a member of staff, a child or a member of the clergy.

Our **assemblies** take many forms and are led by different people and groups, including classes and groups of children, different members of staff and clergy from Christ Church. The school invites other people to lead assemblies, including ministers from other churches and faiths. These arrangements are made with the approval of the head teacher and clergy at Christ Church and with the understanding that the worship element of the assembly will always follow the traditions of the Church of England.

Assemblies may include music, dance, drama, discussion, questions, Bible stories, other stories, poetry, facts, pictures and many other stimuli to introduce new ideas and to get everyone involved and thinking. We try to make our assemblies as interactive as possible and make sure that both children of all ages and staff are engaged and have something to reflect on.

All staff are expected to attend assemblies and, if necessary, to discuss and agree any occasional or regular alternative arrangements with the head teacher beforehand. We believe that our assemblies and daily act of collective worship engender a vital feeling of togetherness, enable all staff and children to hear and work towards the same aims and ideas and bring the community together in Christian worship. Parents are invited to attend selected assemblies, especially when their children are involved. Governors are also welcome to attend.

The head teacher is in charge of organising the assembly arrangements and theme for each term, in collaboration with the clergy at Christ Church. The term's assembly plan is shared with all staff and the theme and content of assemblies is part of each term's head teacher's report to governors.

The school's assembly and act of worship regularly takes place in Church, often linked with the Church's festivals. The head teacher and clergy also organise termly **services** in Christ Church for the whole school community.

The school's assemblies and acts of collective worship are monitored in the first instance by the head teacher, who reports to the clergy at Christ Church and the Governing Body. A Diocesan Worship and RE Inspection (SIAMS) takes place within a five-yearly cycle.

This policy will be reviewed by the full Governing Body every three years, or earlier if there is a change of head teacher at the school or priest at Christ Church.

May 2008. Reviewed by the Governing Body and remains unchanged November 2010

Reviewed by the Governing Body with minor amendments June 2014. Reviewed by the Governing Body and remains unchanged June 2017