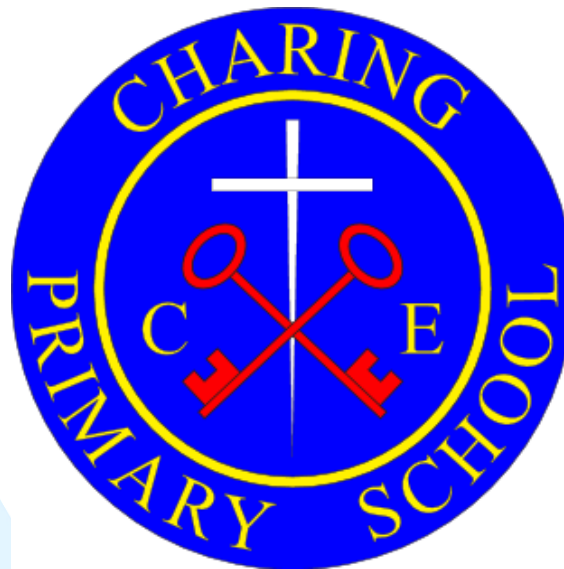


*'...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.'* Isaiah 40:31



connect | nurture | aspire | learn | excel | hope



Charing Church of England Primary School

Christian Distinctiveness and Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility
CD Leader / SLT

Our Vision

Our inclusive school is a place of creative learning where all talents are developed, celebrated and enjoyed. We nurture all to be curious, passionate and resilient lifelong learners. As a community, we listen to, forgive and love one another so all can be confident in who they are. Inspired by Jesus, we walk beside each individual in our family by understanding and responding to their unique needs. We have hope in all our children: that they grow to be open, compassionate people of the world who stand up for what is right.

Compassion Hope Friendship Forgiveness Resilience

We aim to achieve this by:

- ❖ Reflecting on the teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.
- ❖ Seeing all children as individuals, helping them to reach their potential whilst developing their self-esteem, confidence and independence as God intended.
- ❖ Helping children to become caring and responsible citizens.
- ❖ Fostering a lasting love of learning through creative teaching.
- ❖ Continue to strengthen a close partnership with parents, church, governors and the local community.
- ❖ Modelling the school's Christian values:
 - Compassion
 - Hope
 - Friendship
 - Forgiveness
 - Resilience
- ❖ Developing an understanding of the Church of England's Vision for Education values of: Hope, Dignity, Community and Wisdom and how they link to our own school values.

We develop this through a number of ways:

- ❖ We teach the Christian Values through Collective Worship themes and across our school curriculum, particularly in RE and PSHE lessons. This includes teaching about the value of prayer for different situations.
- ❖ We have developed a range of spiritual displays, prayer corners and reflection areas around the school. Children are encouraged to add their own prayers or leave their own comments.
- ❖ Within our Worship we have time to reflect on the Christian message and how we can foster this within our daily lives.
- ❖ Children are encouraged to take an active role in worship sessions which we believe helps develop their own faith.
- ❖ We encourage the children to support others in a number of ways across the school year; through our school council we ensure all are actively involved in the process.

Responsibilities of the Christian Distinctiveness Leader:

In partnership with SLT:

- ❖ Evaluate and amend policies (including action plans) in line with current practice.
- ❖ Write the SIAMS documentation and take part in the SIAMS inspection.
- ❖ Support all stakeholders in their understanding of the Christian values and how to promote them in school.
- ❖ Attend relevant courses or meetings and implement outcomes in school, including the Aquilla RE hub.
- ❖ Update relevant areas on the website with policies, documents and evidence of our school's Christian Distinctiveness and display, prayer corners and reflection areas around school.
- ❖ Ensure the Worship Lead; plans Collective Worship for each term, taking into account the theme, church or world celebrations and current situations.
Updates resources for: Collective Worship, RE lesson.,

Continue to strengthen the relationship between the school, St Peter and Paul's Church and the local community through visits, Collective Worship and special occasions or events.

- ❖ Monitor and evaluate Collective Worship, pupil voice.
- ❖ Carry out pupil and parental voice surveys regarding the Christian Distinctiveness (Collective Worship and RE within school) use this information to improve current practice.
- ❖ Complete the assessment cycle for RE, evaluating impact and identifying next steps within an open action plan.

Collective Worship:

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of: Compassion, Hope, Forgiveness, Friendship and Resilience, celebrating the central role that each person has to play in our community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of Christian worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff members and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Collective worship, in recognising the collectively of all participants, can make no assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship gives children and adults the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. ^[SEP]
- b) Enables all children 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. ^[SEP]
- c) Helps children 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.

- d) Enables children 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.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

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 prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship

Implementation:

Collective worship is planned by the Worship Lead. This act of worship takes place at an assigned time within the school day.

Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning, which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. We use specific themes throughout the year to meet our Christian Vision, Values and special bible story, ‘The Miraculous catch of fish` aimed to meet the needs of all children and adults. It is inclusive for all children and staff; governors and school visitors are invited to join. It takes place either in the school hall, classroom, outdoor space, or at St Peter and Paul’s Church.

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 the Christian Distinctiveness Leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of children remains the responsibility of school staff.

+Weekly Organisation of Collective Worship:

Monday	Led by Rev Sandra from the Church	Whole School
Tuesday	Led by Worship Lead	Whole School Worship
Wednesday	Led by Worship Lead	Whole School Singing Worship
Thursday	Led by Class Teachers	Class Worship
Friday	Member of SLT	Whole School Celebration Worship

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, hymns, readings and drama.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community with music , liturgy and the lighting of three candles
- *Engage* – we share a Bible reading or story, followed by an activity to engage children and adults with the Christian message
- *Respond* -- children discuss, share , reflect , pray or sing
- *Send* – we share the message of the worship again and ask children and adults to think about how this will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with final prayer, liturgy, music and the blowing out of our special candles.

Developing Worship:

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The Christian Distinctiveness 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, children and governors in order to grow and develop. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury (SIAMS).

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Right of Withdrawal:

Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. If a parent or carer wish for their child/ren to withdraw from worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Head of school.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors

