



Our Christian Vision

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus Christ tells us that God is like a generous farmer and we are like the soil in which he plants his seeds. At Christ Church and Holy Trinity Schools, we are learning how to be good soil, so that we grow to love God, our neighbour and ourselves and thereby enable every member of our community to flourish. Each day, we endeavour to face up to all that challenges our growth, in order to see with our eyes, hear with our ears and understand with our hearts God's Good News for the world and to cultivate the virtues with which to produce an abundant harvest.

Our Mission

Christ Church & Holy Trinity Schools are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment in which all children have the opportunity to reach their maximum academic and social potential. Excellent teaching, learning and relationships are at the heart of our schools.

As a Church of England school we are deeply committed to developing and enhancing the talents and potential of each child by providing an ethos that reflects Christian values and enables each child to develop spiritually.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the underpinning foundation of a Christian school, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Christ Church & Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools Federation

Collective Worship Policy

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While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. We openly talk to children about them having choice in worship and that it is a time for reflection but they do not have to pray.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold two daily acts of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each afternoon assembly, which is a bringing together of the whole school on three days and Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 (in two groups) on two days.

There are a number of different kinds of assembly over a week:

Key Stage 1 and 2 Assemblies

Singing Assemblies

Clergy Assemblies

Special Mention Assemblies

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but once a week the Clergy lead assembly and our Friday Assembly is held in Christ Church.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The Clergy and other school assemblies are planned for together so there are almost common themes for the week. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Christ Church School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

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Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. This has never been an issue in the school to date.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed: *Avis Hawkins*

November 2019



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| Name of School | Christ Church & Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools |
| Policy review Date | November 2019 |
| Date of next Review | November 2021 |
| Who reviewed this policy? Ratified by the Full Governing Body | Full Governing Body, Achievement Committee, Camilla Nelson, Donna Verity and Avis Hawkins October 2019 |