

Sherrier Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Introduction

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In Sherrier Church of England Primary School, worship is central to the life of the school. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Sherrier C of E, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Sherrier C of E, draws on guidance from the Church of England². This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in Church of England should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions. The governing body of a school has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

How do we do it?

At Church of England, we follow the structure of Window, Mirror, Door.

- **WINDOWS:** Encounter - The Learning about life.

We give children opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways, to **wonder** about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that bring us up short).

- **MIRRORS:** Reflection - The learning from life.

We provide children with time for **REFLECTION**. We give children opportunities to reflect on their experiences, to look inward & consider the big questions of life. In this they are learning *from* life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others. Give emotional, physical and auditory space.

- **DOORS:** Transformation - The learning to live by putting into action what they believe.

We give children opportunities to *respond to all of this*; to **do** something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to *live* by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

The liturgical elements of our Collective Worship include

- Children making the room special and using Anglican colour tablecloth applicable to time of year
- Signal for time with God to start and end – Candle lit/ extinguished and Church Blessings shared
- Prayers at end of worship

The Right to Withdraw

In Church of England there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate this.

If you have any concerns regarding Collective Worship, please speak with the Head Teacher to discuss your concerns and requirements.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

RE Policy

Spirituality Policy

Equalities Policy