

Adopted by governing body	January 20
Last amended	May 26
For review	May 27

Chirton Church of England Primary School and Preschool

Collective Worship Policy



'Loving our neighbours as ourselves'
Luke 10:27

1.1 The act of worship will aim to:

Be relevant to everyday life.

Allow the children to become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world around.

Allow the children to reflect on their own existence and the puzzling questions which life poses.

Allow the children to encounter commitment to particular leaders, beliefs and causes.

Encourage appreciation that people differ.

Encourage the development of a sense of community.

Allow children to encounter various kinds of language and symbol, and to express their own feelings through them.

2 Collective worship

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

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be of a 'broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, giving pupils the opportunity to worship as a whole school, key stage and class. (see separate timetable)

3.2 We conduct worships in a dignified and respectful way. We teach children that worship 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 offer the opportunity to participate fully in prayer, hymns and discussion. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children including a mobile altar table. The children lead and participate in opening and closing responses.

3.3 The Headteacher and other members of staff conduct worship but, once a week, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups may conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our class and singing celebration worships from the traditions of the Christian faith, sometimes using the "Roots and Fruits" scheme. One worship per week is planned and delivered by the Headteacher, following this programme and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. 'Open the Book' is used by the local parish team in the church once a week where children regularly participate.

Worship may include:

- Explicit religious messages
- Promotion of discussions
- Story and song
- Items from the curriculum
- The marking of festivals and special occasions.

Wherever appropriate, we link our worship to the school's Christian Vision and Values of Love, Equality, Friendship, Forgiveness and Trust.

3.5 Our Golden worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by sharing their learning with the rest of the school and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Chirton School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.

We invite parents to join our Golden worship each full-term where they are invited afterwards to join learning in class. 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.

3.6 We welcome governor attendance at our acts of worship at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend worships. 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.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Recording and Evaluating

5.1 A clear record of worship themes is kept through the year.

5.2 Every class has Worship Leaders, who stand and participate in every worship. Evaluations are carried out 'live' with pupils and staff.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 It is the role of a named school governor (Foundation Governor) with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher and Collective Worship co-ordinator; at least one foundation governor observes and leads acts of worship before reporting to the governors on Collective Worship.