



***/Aspire to succeed \* Believe in yourself \* Achieve your goals***

## Worship Policy

### Philosophy

Charlton-on-Otmoor Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community.

### Aims

It is our aim at Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL, Oxfordshire Agreed syllabus programme and scheme of work.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- be a response to things of worth and so celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet, awe and wonder.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

### Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking by provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher. All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary school.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

### **Organisation**

#### **Day Person Leading Main Hall**

Monday	Head/Visitor/Vicar with ministry team/teacher	community hall
Tuesday	Class Teacher	classrooms
Wednesday	Head/teacher	community hall
Thursday	Teacher	community hall
Friday	Head	community hall

Acts of worship also regularly take place in church at Harvest Festival, Christmas, on the closest Friday to Mothers' Day, May Day and for the Leavers Service at the end of the school year. The school also

goes to church once a term for assemblies to further develop links between the church, worship and the school community.

Daily prayers take place at the end of the school day.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. A termly plan for assemblies is kept in the staffroom and the head teacher and class teachers have their own copy. A folder is kept in the staff room for staff to write comments on the act of worship they have been involved in. The SEAL programme links the themes we follow during the year.

Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. Children are encouraged to take reflection time in the classroom either by looking at a painting, sitting quietly in the book corner and using the garden facilities outside.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. The Governors have a role monitoring Collective worship.

The ministry team uses 'Open the Book' as a planning tool to develop children's understanding of the Bible and to further children's sense of awe and wonder during their fortnightly assemblies.

Singing and music to support acts of worship are developed through a combination of older hymns such as 'Now the Green Blade Rises' and 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' as well as modern hymns and songs of praise.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school's council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the school's council.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the head teacher's office. RE resource boxes for the main world religions are kept in the old staffroom.

<b>Approved by:</b>	Jo Stocks/ Emma Wykes	<b>Date:</b> October 2018
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