

Ditton C of E Junior School

Collective Worship Policy 2022



We will provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment rooted in Christian values. We recognise that the potential of every child is limitless. We will offer opportunity now and for the future that they may grow as lifelong learners, developing empathy, responsibility, perseverance and respect. We strive for excellence in order that our children can play and work together, overcome challenges, seek opportunities, and aim high, and that we as educators build strong partnerships between ourselves, partners and parents.

“I have come that they may have life and live it to the full.” John 10:10

Agreed by IEB

To be reviewed September 2023

Introduction

At our school we use our Christian values of responsibility, respect, empathy and perseverance to support both the academic and the spiritual and moral development of all our children, within the school and throughout their lives in the wider community. Together we promote a love of independent learning and thinking as we grow to fulfil our potential in a safe, happy, stimulating and rewarding environment. This is enshrined in our narrative and vision above.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff 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

Equal Opportunities Statement

At Ditton C of E Junior School we are committed to the provision of learning for all children in our care, regardless of race, gender, culture or disability.

Discrimination is challenged whenever it arises, whether it is on the grounds of race, gender, class, disability or religion and will be recorded and reported if necessary. In order to encourage each pupil to fulfil their physical, aesthetic, intellectual and social potential the school will:

- Show that cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity is appreciated and valued.
- Make clear that we have zero-tolerance towards the use of racist and sexist language or behaviour by any pupils, staff, parents or visitors.
- Be sensitive to cultural expectations where this could be affected by teaching of a particular subject.
- This is further underpinned by a values progression document which details our ambitions for each year group's children and how they can develop the fullness of their lives and support that for others.

Aims/Objectives

In line with the requirements of 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 pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils 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.
- c) Helps pupils 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 pupils 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.

Role of Subject Leader

- Monitoring Standards
- Keeping up to date with new developments/teaching, by liaising with outside agencies or attending courses for instance.
- Model good practice and be responsible for training other staff members in the subject, including organising INSET when needed.
- Upgrading and ordering new resources as required in accordance with the agreed budget.
- Report to the Headteacher and Governing Body

Curriculum Content

Our collective worship themes follow a four year cycle, as set out by the Rochester Diocese Board of Education.

Time Allocation

Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall for fifteen minutes and a Celebration Worship takes place every Friday for 30 minutes. The local vicar visits every Wednesday and leads worship.

Learning Resources

Our school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Approach

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors, such as Family Trust in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Our worship consists of 4 elements:

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

Worship Committee

Leading Lights pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during lunchtimes to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Assessment

At Ditton C of E Junior School, we regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our newsletters on a regular basis. These play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester (SIAMS).

Health and Safety Statement

The safe use of equipment and materials is promoted rigorously at all times. Teachers must also be aware of the school's Health and Safety policy. Particular attention must be given to avoiding the use of anything that aggravates individuals' allergies. Safety issues must be acknowledged in planning and risk assessments carried out if activities are to be undertaken

that are unusual and beyond the scope of normal practice. Risk assessments must also be undertaken for school trips and handed to the Head Teacher 6 weeks prior to a trip.

Confidentiality / Withdrawal of Pupils

Worship is regarded as 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.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Starting New Celebrating me Black History Month	Empathy	Respect	Responsibility	Perseverance	Reflection and change