

WICKHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a church school, we strive to guide children towards a spiritual and moral life based on Christian values particularly the school values of Love, Courage and Respect. Daily worship plays an integral and vital part of the children's day at school, giving the opportunity to join together with staff, parents and other adults in a collective act of reflection and worship.

Main Aims

- ☞ To enable spiritual awareness and encourage curiosity
- ☞ To develop the children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and patterns of worship.
- ☞ To develop the feeling of belonging and contributing to a caring community, being mindful of the fact that children come from a variety of backgrounds both Christian and non-Christian.
- ☞ To provide an opportunity for reflection and stillness
- ☞ To develop awareness and respect for other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.
- ☞ To celebrate children's worth and uniqueness

As a Church School we must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- ☞ Provide a daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- ☞ Ensure Collective Worship is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

The legal requirement for Church Schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The parental right to request that a child be wholly or partly excused from attending Acts of Worship will be respected. Parents who wish to exercise this right should discuss this with the Headteacher. After discussion, if withdrawal is required by the parent, the Headteacher should be informed of this in writing. Any child withdrawn from an Act of Worship will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school.

Worship in our school will:

- Create a time and space where we can draw closer to God and to each other
- Be distinctively Christian whilst also being *invitational, inclusive and inspirational*
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Be related to Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Make use of the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For learners it will:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply with the Policies of the Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses, it will:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

Collective worship follows the **suggested method for delivering worship using the following 'central attributes'**:

- Gathering** Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
- Engaging** Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
- Responding** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways
- Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

Policy written by Lucy Faulkner in conjunction with Foundation Governors - Rev'd David Lindsay and Sabrina Gwynn

Based on the Collective Worship Policy for Church of England Schools in the Portsmouth and Winchester Dioceses

Agreed by staff: 20th May 2015

Agreed by governors: 23rd June 2015