

# ST. CHAD'S C.E.(C) PRIMARY SCHOOL

## WORSHIP POLICY

'Building together, with Jesus, for a better future.'

### Our vision:

Our Christian school is a place where children are happy and healthy, and live by strong Christian values. They have a sense of right and wrong and show respect for themselves and others.

This is a place where individuality, spirituality and differences are celebrated.

Work ethic is strong and everyone is self-motivated to do their best. All are inspired to learn new skills which will enhance their life now and in the future. Children are curious and reflective learners and have the skills and attributes necessary to enable them to participate fully and positively in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 'following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad'.

### Background:

Our daily acts of worship are in accordance with the spirit of the Anglican Church. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. We also take into account DFE Legislation, and we aim to provide worship, which will be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of the pupils. Worship will be provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders, including children. We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

St. Chad's Primary School is a happy community school that welcomes all children whatever their family beliefs, and offers a very high standard of education to all those children. As a Church of England Controlled School, Christian values are built strongly into our ethos, and we aim to develop in our pupils an understanding of Christian and other world faiths, cultures and customs. High priority is attached to strong links between the school, the home, the local community and the local churches. The active involvement of the school's Governing Body is valued. At St Chad's, we are concerned with the education of the whole child, and the development of all pupils' full potential, providing a broad and balanced curriculum, and a safe, disciplined environment where the children feel secure and valued as exemplified in our mission statement '**Building together, with Jesus, for a better future,**' which implies how our school community works together, recognising the relationship that we have with God.

Our school values serve to support our mission in being the 'good people' that Jesus taught us to be. Our school values are:- **respect, kindness, empathy, independence, commitment, belonging and honesty.**

Our school values aim to reflect those taught through the stories Jesus told.

Our school strives to foster intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development and to provide opportunities for the development of physical skills and special talents. High standards are set, sensitivity shown to those with special needs, and curiosity, enthusiasm, responsibility and respect nurtured and promoted.

Collective Worship at St. Chad's plays an important and inspirational part in the life of our school. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and participate in the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school, which values the whole development of every pupil, and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, background or religion.

### Aims:

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for worship;
- to affirm the Christian faith;
- to learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to them living together in the community;
- to recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those represented in the school community;
- to develop a sense of community and shared values;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to be challenging and inspiring;
- to celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit;
- to celebrate achievements of members of the school, that are held to be of worth, e.g., success in sport, behaviour, attitude, academic, birthdays, etc.,

#### Organisation:

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule of assemblies, which include acts of worship, is as follows:

Monday	Whole school assembly led by the Headteacher. This includes an act of worship and celebration of our school values and announcement of house point totals for the week.
Tuesday	No timetabled assemblies except house assemblies (4) which are held once a term and are led by our house captains. When the school does not meet together, classes take part in a variety of activities which develop their spiritual journey and include an act of worship.
Wednesday	Whole school assembly which includes worship- led by members of the Senior Leadership Team alongside members of Holy Trinity and St Chad's Church. This includes presentation of our Book Worms.
Thursday	Whole school 'Songs of praise' led by a member of SLT or Music leader and one other member of staff on a rota.- including an act of worship
Friday	Whole school assembly led by the Headteacher. This includes presentation of Class Awards, Attendance awards, sporting achievements and birthdays. Each class performs once per year and parents and family members are invited to join us- each class assembly includes an act of worship.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead and take part in worship.

The assembly/worship lasts approximately 20-25 minutes and all start at 9:05am.

Assembly always includes worship with a time of prayer and/or reflection and singing of worship songs. An altar table (covered with an appropriately coloured cloth- see Liturgical calendar) is prepared by the children during the worship and is situated at the front of the hall with a: Bible, Trinity candles and a cross placed upon it. Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall for daily worship in order to promote spiritual reflection. The head teacher prepares termly themes for worship which include: Christian values, Christian events, stories from the Bible, events and stories from other

religions and other spiritual themes which promote self-reflection of their own lives and events taking place in the wider world.

All classes pray before lunch. (See appendix 1).

KS1 and EY also pray at the end of the school day. (See appendix 2)

KS2 share the School Creed at the end of the school day (See appendix 3).

Many of our prayers are led by our pupils and opportunities are provided for children to share their own personal prayers throughout the day.

#### Responsibilities

The Headteacher has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, and breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept centrally for whole school worship, and it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to liaise with the staff so that plans and records of the worship programme are maintained.

The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing, purchasing and maintaining resources, which are kept in the staff room, and ensuring that they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. The worship co-ordinator also keeps in touch with development in the subject, and act in an advisory capacity to colleagues. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is carried out through staff and pupil interviews.

#### Equal Opportunities:

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

#### Resources:

The Collective Worship coordinator ensures that appropriate resources are available to support them themes planned each year.

Approved:	Summer 18
Review Date:	Spring 2019

Appendix 1

Thank you for the world so sweet;  
Thank you for the food we eat;  
Thank you for the birds that sing;  
Thank you God for everything.

Appendix 2

May the lightness of God be with you:  
May the brightness of God be with you;  
May He smile on all you do:  
May God bless you.

Appendix 3

**ST. CHAD'S SCHOOL CREED**

This is our school;  
Let peace live here;  
Let the rooms be full of happiness;  
Let love be all around;  
Love of one another;  
Love of all people;  
And love of life and living;  
Let us remember;  
That many hands build a house;  
So many hearts make a school.