



Shrivvenham
Church of England Primary School

All things are possible for one who believes

Collective Worship Policy

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Mission

We ensure our children learn in a nurturing environment where we value everyone as individuals, care for one another and foster positive emotional growth and well-being. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we inspire, motivate and challenge our children to become independent and confident learners, maximising intellectual, social, physical and spiritual development. We put Shrivenham School at the heart of village life, actively encouraging partnership with parents, the Church and the wider community.

Vision

At Shrivenham, we give every possible opportunity for individuals to believe in themselves, others and God through the promotion of love, hope and courage in order to flourish and fulfil their unique potential, to work well together and positively contribute to the wider community.

'All things are possible for one who believes' (Mark 9:23)

Values

LOVE

Love is the core value that underpins all that we do at Shrivenham CE Primary School. Jesus demonstrated his unconditional love during his time on earth indiscriminately, and as followers of Jesus we aim to walk in his footsteps.

We show love to everyone by putting others before ourselves. By working together as part of a strong and supportive family, we can all achieve more - socially, emotionally and academically.

HOPE

Hope is a core value for our church school because we share in the joy that comes from the belief that there is always hope and all is never lost. Hope is an attitude of mind that we develop through faith in God and each other.

In our school this helps is to keep going even when things get hard and when we face new challenges. Together we can turn hope into reality.

COURAGE

Courage is a core value for our church school because God asks us to be brave in the face of hardship. The book of Joshua reminds us to stand against injustice and to be the best we can be when things are difficult.

At our school, we have courage to stand by our beliefs and are committed to what is right and true.

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Shrivenham CE Primary School, worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is **inclusive** and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is **invitational** and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is **inspiring** and combines a range of experiences

Aims

- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world, its people and their faiths.
- To develop an understanding of worship and ritual using music, prayer, silence, stories, poems, drama, dance and symbol.
- To reflect the traditions of Christian belief in celebration of such festivals as Easter, Christmas, Pentecost and Harvest, and by marking the seasons.
- To honour any traditions and cultures from within the local community, and from the wider world.
- To encourage openness to different traditions, faiths and forms of spiritual expression.
- To develop a sense of school community and foster an atmosphere of well-being founded on mutual respect and trust.
- To allow children freedom to respond individually and support them in their own spiritual and life journeys.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - School values associated with our vision;
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions

- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

We welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship.

We wish to encourage all the children to take part in collective worship taking account of individual integrity. The school respects the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, although it is hoped that any parent considering this option will discuss the matter with the Head of School first.

Any concerns should be addressed to the Head of School in the first instance or governors if necessary. The School also has pupils from a variety of religious traditions and staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths

The Pattern of Collective Worship

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day at Shrivenham CE Primary School . Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions worship takes place in the church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself. . Collective prayers are said up to 3 times a day – in assembly, as grace in thanks for our mid-day meal and at the end of the day.

The school follows a theme each term using the 'Roots and Fruits' materials .

Values Calendar	Year A	Year B
Autumn 1	Generosity	Thankfulness
Autumn 2	Compassion	Trust
Spring 1	Courage	Perseverance

Spring 2	Forgiveness	Justice
Summer 1	Friendship	Service
Summer 2	Respect	Truthfulness

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Structure of Collective Worship

- Gathering - Welcome with music, words and candles. A focal point is present at the front of the hall
- Engaging - Adult input such as telling stories, sharing experience, performing drama; children are involved as much as possible
- Responding - time to think alone or talk to partners. Gathering answers from children. Time for prayer, or stillness and silence.
- Sending - A song or thought for the day. Children leave to music

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

We believe that Collective Worship is strengthened by high quality RE teaching. We use the Oxfordshire Syllabus, Discovery scheme and a Big Question approach to teaching RE. This is delivered across a term in weekly lessons which gives the children chance to explore a question in depth, coming to their own opinions at the end. We encourage reflective and

analytical thinking throughout and hope that children will peruse and raise their own questions – realising that some questions might not have answers.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the head of school.

Monitoring and Review

It is the duty of the Head of School to ensure this policy is delivered. This role is supported by a Foundation Governor who is responsible for RE and Collective Worship. The school evaluates worship in a process involving pupils, staff and governors. This feedback informs our action points for further development. Foundation governors meet each term with the Collective worship / RE co-ordinator to review our SIAMS SEF and developments.

The monitoring and effectiveness of the policy is reviewed regularly in accordance with the school's cycle of policy review.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

Relational policy

RE policy