



**Shrivvenham**  
Church of England Primary School

All things are possible for one who believes

# Collective Worship Policy

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## *Mission*

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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 Shrevenham School at the heart of village life, actively encouraging partnership with parents, the Church and the wider community.

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## *Vision*

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Shrevenham School gives everyone the opportunity to believe in themselves, others, and God. Through our values of love, hope and courage, everyone at our school will flourish, fulfil their unique potential and positively contribute to the community.

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

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## *Values*

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### **LOVE**

Love is the core value that underpins all that we do at Shrevenham 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 us 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.**

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## *Curriculum Intent*

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At Shrivenham CE Primary School we aim to make every day full of wonder, excitement, challenge and fun, equipping today's children for tomorrow's world.

Every child at Shrivenham is recognised and valued as a unique individual. We celebrate and welcome differences within our school community. The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and making connections. We constantly provide opportunities for the children to develop as independent, confident, successful learners with high aspirations who know how to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider society. There is a high focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding (including British Values) alongside physical development, well-being and mental health. The school provides a highly inclusive environment where learners enjoy their education and pupils at all levels are helped to achieve their potential.

The school's curriculum development is carefully designed to ensure coverage and progression. It provides pupils with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. The children's own community, its heritage and traditions are frequently used as a starting point for engaging interest. A primary focus of our curriculum is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievement, and providing a purpose and relevance for learning. Community interaction is an essential part of our curriculum and values the chance to involve and be involved. Children are given a wide range of opportunities to take an active role in events throughout the year including sporting and artistic activities. Children leave the school with a sense of belonging to a tightly knit community where they have the confidence and skills to make decisions, learn from mistakes, self-evaluate, make connections and become lifelong learners

**'All things are possible for one who believes'**

## INTRODUCTION

Collective worship involves the recognition and celebration of Christian beliefs and values as befits the Christian Foundation of the school and the shared vision statement. It offers time for personal reflection on God and the wonders and mysteries of the world and an opportunity to develop both morally and spiritually while seeking to be inclusive to those of other spiritual traditions and none.

## 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.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires “The arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the Governors after consultation with the Head of School. The act specifies “All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship” unless parents request that they are excused. We seek to provide an assembly each day which is central to the life of the school, reflects our school’s trust deeds and includes an “Act of collective worship”.

The 1988 Act defines its aims as: *Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.*

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 teacher first.

Any concerns should be addressed to the Head teacher 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.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

An act of collective Worship takes place each day at Shrivenham C of E Primary School with opportunities for both the whole school and class or key stage to gather together. The school follows a theme each term using the 'Roots and Fruits' materials and also include the use of Jigsaw (PSHE) based themes along with a weekly musical praise. Wednesday Collective Worship is led by a local minister and Friday Collective Worship is a celebration where parents and the local community are invited to join us.

Throughout the year, our Worship Council and classes also have the opportunity to plan and lead Collective Worship.

Collective worship includes time for:

- Thinking
- Sharing
- Listening
- Stillness and silence
- Reflecting on a chosen "Value"

Christian festivals and Collective Worship often take place in St Andrew's Church and parents are invited to attend these.

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 ACT OF WORSHIP

We encourage children to enter quietly in order to reflect on why they are there. A spiritual focus is provided at the front of the hall to show that this is an exceptional time. The focus is a special table, covered with a cloth. The candles represent the Trinity and they are lit to mark the beginning of our time to worship God. There may be another symbol, beside the candle.

Examples are:

A Cross

A Picture

An Icon

Beautiful Stones

Special Shells

Flowers

or another symbol, related to the theme of the assembly or to the season.

At the end of the worship, a child is invited to snuff the candle before any notices or messages are shared.

The Parish Priest, ministers from the local Methodist Church and from the Chaplaincy of the nearby Defence Academy, and lay preachers, take turns to conduct the Wednesday Collective Worship.

## THEMES

The basic resource is a rolling three-year programme of themes, generated by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Head of School and other ministers using the 'Roots and Fruits' materials. There is a specific weekly theme based around this value. Occasionally, the programmed theme may be replaced by one of current interest to the school or to the local community.

The chosen theme defines which stories can be used by the staff throughout the week; books and website links containing the stories, suggestions for prayers and linked hymns are also provided.

Children from other faiths are welcomed into our Collective Worship. Anyone who does not feel able to join in any part of the services is asked to wait quietly in respect for the beliefs of others.

The youngest children do not always take part until later in the academic year after their initial induction into school as finished, in which case they have their own time for worship or reflection in class.

<b>Values Calendar</b>	<b>Year A</b>	<b>Year B</b>	<b>Year C</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b>	Generosity	Thankfulness	The Words of Jesus
<b>Autumn 2</b>	Compassion	Trust	Advent and Christmas
<b>Spring 1</b>	Courage	Perseverance	People Jesus Meets (such as Martha & Mary and Zacchaeus)
<b>Spring 2</b>	Forgiveness	Justice	Holy Week and Easter
<b>Summer 1</b>	Friendship	Service	The Parables of Jesus
<b>Summer 2</b>	Respect	Truthfulness	The Miracles of Jesus

## LINKS WITH RE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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.

## RESOURCES AND TRAINING

Resources for staff are kept on the staff area (if electronic) and in the staffroom. Each religion that is taught has a specified box of resources. Staff attend training when suitable courses are available and the school works closely with the advisory team at the Oxford Diocese.

## 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:

Behaviour policy

RE policy