

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



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| Approved by: | Headteacher |
| Last reviewed on: | November 2022 |
| Next review due by: | November 2024 |

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RATIONALE

Two River's C of E Primary School's vision is built upon our Christian values and complements and enhances our mission. We aim to nurture every child to be the best they can be academically, spiritually and emotionally; and by each member of our community striving to do their best. We will all be displaying our values of kindness, courage and respect. Our school's vision has a clear Christian theological underpinning, based on the Biblical narrative underpinning our Christian Values.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

OUR VISION

"Together, we enrich the academic, spiritual and emotional child to enable them to flourish. Two Rivers is a community where everyone feels safe, supported and inspired to become inquisitive learners who value kindness, respect and courage"

OUR VALUES

Kindness, Respect and Courage

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

"But blessed is the man who trusts me, God,
the woman who sticks with God.
They're like trees replanted in Eden,
putting down roots near the rivers-
Never a worry through the hottest of summers,
never dropping a leaf,
Serene and calm through droughts,
bearing fresh fruit every season."

POLICY STATEMENT

In Two Rivers Church of England Primary School worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Two Rivers Church of England Primary School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer (joining in only if they choose to), reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical

and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

At Two Rivers Church of England Primary School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. In order to achieve this, when introducing a story from the bible the Collective Worship leader will explain to the children that this is what Christians believe. Children will also be given the choice to participate in prayer or not.

As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of our Church school, the Christian ethos of our school will be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLANNING

We follow this process when planning for collective worship.

| Gathering together | Engaging together | Reflecting together | Leaving together |
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| <p>Light a large candle, say and sign: Come Lord Jesus, come and be with us.</p> <p>Listen to quiet music</p> <p>Look at pictures of nature</p> | Use our own idea to help people think about the theme | Sing a worship song which fits in with the theme | End collective worship saying, "Our time together has ended, so go with God." |
| | Read or tell a bible story. Children could use costumes and props to help | Pray the Lord's prayer together. We could say it, sing it or sign it. | Use a prayer or blessing – write our own or choose one from a book |
| | Show and talk about a picture or several pictures to introduce our theme or story | Pray our school prayer together | Sing a leaving song – repeat the chorus Try starting loud and getting quieter with each repeat |
| | Listen to a song or piece of music to introduce our theme | Ask several people to say a short prayer and sing a reflective chant (e.g. Taize style) | Sing a blessing together: 'May God bless our school and homes' Ask the children to do something practically, related to the theme, at some point of time within the day |
| | Learn a new song of worship and explore its meaning together | Listen to a piece of music while thinking about the theme/message/story etc. | |
| | Use questions and answers to explore the theme together | Invite some pupils to present work they have prepared on the theme | |
| | Explore a topical issue (local or national) and think about an appropriate Christian response | Gather everyone's responses to the message of the worship and bring them together in a prayer | |
| | Explore the story behind a Christian festival | Listen to a prayer chosen or written by a pupil | |
| | Explore the story behind a Christian saint | Discuss a practical response to the message of the worship | |
| | Explore the story behind a Christian organisation e.g. Tear Fund | Spend time in quiet reflection, maybe using a candle as a focus | |
| | Explore the story behind a Christian piece of art | Strike a 'singing bowl' and ask the children to think of 1, 2, 3 or more ideas in the time it takes for the sound to finish | |
| | Talk about a relevant personal experience or tell a story that fits the theme | Have a small group of children perform a dance/movement to a piece of music for others to watch | |

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| | Invite a visitor to share a story or message on the theme | | |
| | Tell a story with children responding to key words through mime or action | | |

MONDAY

Collective worship centred around celebration, linking to school values and vision.
Spiritual Leaders lead a reading/ prayer/ message etc.

TUESDAY

Collective worship run by the clergy team on the term's theme/ upcoming Christian festivals

WEDNESDAY

- Explore a topical issue (local or national) and think about an appropriate Christian response
- Explore the story behind a Christian organisation e.g. Tear Fund
- Explore the story behind a Christian piece of art/ piece of music
- Talk about a relevant personal experience or tell a story that fits the Christian theme
- Invite a visitor to share a story or message on the Christian theme

THURSDAY

Hymn Practise – learn a new song of worship and explore its meaning together

FRIDAY

Collective worship focusing on wisdom, courage or kindness during 'Mantel of the Expert'
Spiritual Leader led worship

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP MONITORING

- Ethos Group monitor collective worship three times a year
- Pupil voice three times a year
 - We have appointed a team of seven spiritual leaders from our Year 2 class. These children will be monitoring collective worship.