

	Version	Chagford Pri
	Portfolio	SMSC
	Delegation	Headteacher
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Collective Worship Policy

At Chagford School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Our school vision is expressed in the three words 'Community, Challenge, Care' drawing from Hebrews 10:24 – 'Let us spur each other on to love and good works'. We talk, think and sing about this vision together every day and hope to see it permeating every aspect of the school – radiating out from the inclusive, inspirational atmosphere we find daily in our Collective Worship.

Our purpose at Chagford Church of England Primary School is to build a strong foundation for every child, so that they are well prepared for their life ahead. We do this by learning about who we are, our relationship to each other and to the wider world, so that we bring about the best possible future for ourselves, our communities and future generations.

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection. Collective Worship should try sensitively to evoke senses and feelings that arise from:

- A sense of beauty;
- A feeling of shared sadness;
- A sense of shared loss;
- A sense of peace;
- A sense of thankfulness;

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the

Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship. This policy is written in accordance with the Devon SACRE guidance.

Organisation

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

- Monday** Whole school worship led by the Assistant Headteacher, Senior teacher or another adult.
- Tuesday** Class based reflection time led by Class teacher.
- Wednesday** Revd. Paul Seaton Burn leads Worship.
- Thursday** Children lead Worship.
- Friday** Whole school worship including Celebration of achievements led by the Head Teacher, Senior Teacher or another adult.

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

The assembly/worships last approximately 15-20 minutes. Acts of worship are regularly followed up back in class through discussion and further reflection.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Collective Worship reflect Christian Values; the Church calendar; significant local, national and international events; our school vision and aims; and major festivals from other faiths. Worship usually includes a hymn / song, prayer, thought / story and opportunities for reflection and the children's participation.

Celebration assembly on Fridays celebrates the children's achievements. Normally, teachers choose a few members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. Other achievements, academic and non-academic, in school or from outside, are also celebrated.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

Time for quiet and reflection is also regularly provided within classrooms and the school grounds.

Our beautiful grounds and stunning scenery provide opportunities for the whole school community to revel in the beauty of God's creation.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. We have children in the school from Muslim, Buddhist, Pagan and other traditions and we ensure that our worship is respectful to and inclusive of other faith and cultures. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they may reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A record book is kept by our Year Six pupils, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation is recorded here. Governors monitor Collective Worship and record their evaluations through their portfolio reports.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Chagford School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Michael's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. Since 2012 we have also started to visit other Churches within our catchment area for services.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

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.