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Charlton-on-Otmoor CE Primary School

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Charlton-on-Otmoor Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community.

Intent

It is our aim at Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- be a response to things of worth and so celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet, awe and wonder.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that '**all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship**'. We seek to keep the spirit of this legislation by providing as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

We endeavour to offer students a variety of opportunities to worship. For example, whole school collective worship, clergy led devotions, and individual class reflections led by the teacher.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher. All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a '**wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**' and not distinctive of any particular Christian

denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts based around our specific school values: Love, Respect, Kindness, Forgiveness, Resilience and Honesty.

Acts of Collective Worship at Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to Worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the IWB, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Charlton-on-Otmoor Primary school. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Organisation

Day	Person Leading	Location
Monday	Head Teacher	Community Hall
Tuesday	Class Teacher	Classrooms
Wednesday	Rev Lisa or 'Open the Book' team (Rev Stephen)	Community Hall
Thursday	Individual Class Teachers	Classrooms
Friday	Head Teacher	Community Hall

Acts of worship also regularly take place at St Mary's Church for Harvest Festival, Christmas, on the closest Friday to Mothers' Day, Easter, May Day and for the end of the school year. The school is also planning to reintroduce going to church once a term for assemblies to further develop links between the church, worship and the school community.

Daily prayers take place at the end of the school day and before or during lunchtime.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Each term there is an overall theme for Collective Worship based around one of the six school Christian values: Love, Respect, Kindness, Forgiveness, Resilience and Honesty. We also follow the Christian calendar for example Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas.

Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to these themes. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. Children are encouraged to take reflection time in the classroom either in a designated reflection area or sitting quietly in the book corner. They can also contemplate God's world by using the "God's Window" positioned in each class. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers

/worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The Governors have a role monitoring Collective worship.

The ministry team uses 'Open the Book' as a planning tool to develop children's understanding of the Bible and to further children's sense of awe and wonder during their fortnightly assemblies.

Singing and music to support acts of worship are developed through a combination of older hymns such as 'Now the Green Blade Rises' and 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' as well as modern hymns and songs of praise.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school's council will occasionally seek the views of their classmates and report these findings to the school's council.

Resources

The RE/Worship co-coordinator will endeavour to build up a resource bank of ideas and stimuli for acts of Worship and share them with staff as appropriate. RE resource boxes for the main world religions are kept in the old staffroom.