



Shinfield St Mary's C of E Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

Everything we do in our school is driven by our values – those that have been determined by our community as representative of our Church of England School, as well as those that have been identified as quintessentially British by our government – tolerance, democracy, and the rule of law.

We believe everyone is precious in the sight of God and we value the individual gifts brought by each and every member of our community. At Shinfield, we include the following as our most important values, the greatest of which is love: creativity and collaboration, hope and honesty, inclusion and individuality, love and loyalty, determination, respect, enjoyment and nurture. The initial letters of our values spell out the word 'CHILDREN' – and this is what we're about – developing happy, well-educated and well-rounded young people, able to cope with the challenges of life in the global economy in the years to come.

'As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' John 13, 34

Document History:

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1.0	February 2012	
	February 2014	
	May 2016	
	May 2018	Updates focus on the inclusion of our values as main drivers
	Sept 20	Quote from John

Signature of Headteacher:

Date:

Signature of Governor:

Date:

This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement and values. It supports and reinforces the aims of our School, valuing all children equally and the individual gifts they and all other members of our community bring to school life at Shinfield St Mary's.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are clearly set out in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - to encourage participation and response;
 - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
 - to explore, through experience, models of worship

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We explain to children of all faiths and of no faith that to say 'amen' at the end of a prayer or reflection is to agree with the sentiments that have been expressed in the prayer or reflection.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Church of England. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although occasionally we may hold separate Lower Junior and Upper Junior assemblies.

During times of infection related to the covid19 pandemic, Year Group assemblies will be held once a week for each year group, and Class Collective Worship will take place on the other three days.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. In every whole school or year group assembly, we light a candle to represent Christ as the light of the world, and specifically as a life well-lived. We relate this also to examples of role models in the children's own lives, also.

The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct the assemblies. Local clergy regularly lead a Collective Worship. Other representatives of local religious groups may lead them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our shared values are always identified and addressed at this time. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the main drivers of the school, which are our specified values:

Creativity and Collaboration
Honesty and Hope
Inclusion and Individuality
Loyalty and Love
Determination
Respect
Enjoyment
Nurture

We invite parents to important assemblies; especially class assemblies once a term, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. During the time of infection, such as the covid19 pandemic, assemblies will be mentioned in the newsletter, as parents cannot be invited into school.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will, wherever possible, make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to

explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Visitors

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and invite them to participate in our assemblies. We expect that they will respect and uphold our Vision, Values and School Ethos and will read and adhere to this Policy.

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John, 13:34

Learning Together Achieving Success