



Our Vision

'Let Your Light Shine'

Icklesham Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural 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 teach children about worship

2 Collective worship

2.1 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.

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

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This can be whole-school, Key Stage or class based.

3.2 We conduct our collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this is a time 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, to listen carefully to the teachings. We create an appropriate atmosphere to focus the attention of the children. This might be through using appropriate music, pictures, candles or other objects. Children are encouraged to reflect on and share their own thoughts.

- 3.3 Our collective worship is usually conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but is also regularly led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups. The children have opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas for collective worship, leading collective worship where appropriate.
- 3.4 We take our collective worship themes from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Themes are also planned to incorporate Spiritual, Moral, Social and Emotional development and topics that we teach in PSHE and RSE as part of the school curriculum. These are embedded in Christian Values. Our collective worship is planned on a termly basis is adapted to reflect the needs of the school community where appropriate.
- 3.5 Our Celebration Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children and include an act of Collective worship. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. We aim to provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. This also plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.6 We hold regular services in Church four times per year. We encourage parents, carers and the wider school community to attend. This is highly valued by our community and promotes community spirit, showing the school and our families working together. The children take part in planning an act of collective worship such as prayers or hymns as part of each service.
- 3.7 Governors are regularly invited to our Church Services, Collective Worship and Celebration Assemblies.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly and collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from collective worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the collective worship part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 The Worship and Ethos working group of the Governing Board monitor this policy and practice. The Headteacher leads collective worship provision for the school and plans and evaluates the impact with input from the wider school community.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or earlier if appropriate.

This Review Summer Term 2019

Next Review Summer Term 2022