



Ormskirk Church of England Primary  
**Ormskirk Church of England  
Primary School**

**Greetby Hill, Ormskirk. Lancashire L39 2DP**

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**Headteacher: Mr Giles Storch**

**Collective Worship Policy**  
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## Vision

The School's vision states that:

Our whole school community strives, through God's love and guidance, to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which all are Inspired, Aim High, Achieve and Shine!

We do this by inspiring the whole school community, encouraging them to aim high, achieving and as a result, shining.

Worship can be said to be, "an expression of a relationship with God and a desire to serve and love God and others".

Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of our school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an opportunity to nurture the spiritual growth of the whole school community. As such, we are encouraged to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The Worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to weave prayer into the curriculum and the daily life of the school.

We aim to 'live out' what we learn in Collective Worship in school and within our families and wider community. We believe that our Christian Values are 'values for life' and as it says in Romans 12 v 1 *'true worship is the way we live our lives'*.

As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the worldwide Church ( and the shared values of people of other faiths)

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils and staff will be introduced to the key beliefs of the Christian faith and be helped to explore them.

As it says in ' The Church of England's Entitlement to Collective Worship' we aim that, *Worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for the whole school community'*

We will explore:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The nature of human beings, created by God in his image, who, though sinful, may attain eternal life through faith in Jesus.
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God, its Creator.
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity.
- The central place of the Bible as God's word, as our source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance.
- The importance of prayer.
- The central symbols of Christianity.

- The cycle of the Church's year
- Collective Worship

We believe that we can gather to worship anywhere and at any time. The whole school will meet for Collective Worship twice weekly, in Key Stages during the week and in classes. Every class in school presents worship to the rest of the school and parents at least once a year. There will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important announcements and notices. Such assemblies are legally distinctive from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

The Worship Co-ordinator is Mr Boyd.

## **Aims**

Collective Worship at this school aims to;

1. Be inclusive, invitational and inspirational.
2. To contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the school.
3. To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to reflect and worship together from their own starting points.
4. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith and how it might impact their lives.
5. To develop links with the Parish Church and introduce pupils, staff and parents to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
6. To worship God through the life, example and teachings of Jesus.
7. To develop a rich prayer and reflection life within our school.
8. To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of the whole school community.

## **Implementation**

At our school a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. All teachers take an active role in leading worship, including the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. Our local vicar leads worship on a regular basis. Worship will sometimes include speakers from Christian charities and other organisations.

Pupils are also encouraged to participate, plan, lead and evaluate Collective Worship so that they too may bring the Christian message to the whole school community.

The appropriate length of collective worship is 15 minutes per day. This may vary from day to day. Worship is a major aspect of the whole-school curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or may be asked to listen to readings, to reflect and respond a stimuli such as works of art.

Due to the distance between the church and school and the time taken to walk from one venue to the other, whole-school worship in church is confined to three End of Term Services and a Harvest Service. Throughout the year parents, family and Governors are invited to attend the End of Term Services.

A suitable atmosphere for worship is created by playing music as the children enter and leave the hall. Music is sometimes played by the children.

As our main aim in collective worship is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all everyone, it is hoped that few parents will feel the need for withdrawal. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

Parent's rights in respect of withdrawing children will be brought to their attention at the time of the children starting Ormskirk C of E School.

Parents may withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching. Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents - school is not expected to make these arrangements.

### **Programme**

Themes are selected from a variety of sources and chosen as they draw upon the teachings of Jesus and the order of the Church year and include an exploration of shared values. Within one year, opportunities will occur for the following:-

- \* Sharing and taking note of common experiences - loss, death, birthdays, anger, thankfulness,
- \* Looking at the world, developing awe and wonder, exploring mystery, pattern, order, change, renewal and thanksgiving.
- \* Exploring common values, standards and rules - how to treat others, self-discipline, good and evil.
- \* Topical events - peace, famine, conflict and world disasters and events
- \* Celebrating the curriculum generally.
- \* Sharing and celebrating pupils' achievements.
- \* Stories which illustrate faith themes. \* Information about other faiths but not other faith worship.
- \* Music from a variety of sources performed by pupils and singing from the choir.

All the above are only part of the worship content. Much of the content is explicitly Christian.

It will include:-

- \* Understanding the nature of the Bible.
- \* Old Testament stories and stories about the teaching of Jesus.
- \* Church Seasons and Festivals.
- \* Stories of Saints and famous Christians - from the past and present.
- \* Christian Beliefs.
- \* Christian life and Worship.
- \* Christian values, e.g. forgiveness, compassion thankfulness, humility, friendship and trust.
- \* Awareness of the values we share with other faith groups.

### **Prayer and God.**

We aim to create a unique and special prayer life in our school.

We explore ideas about the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hymns and songs from a variety of sources including Out of the Ark, Hillsong, Rend Collective and YouTube.

We use different forms of prayer, e.g. thanksgiving, praise, silence, contemplation, responses, the Lord's Prayer, and pupils own prayers. Prayer will also include acknowledgement of failings and wrongdoings as well as thanksgiving and praise and bringing our worries and concerns to God.

Children will be encouraged to write their own prayers for use in class or in school worship.

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### **Setting for Worship**

Great importance is placed upon creating the right setting for worship. We do this through various means such as:-

- Music - choosing a piece of music to listen to as the children enter and leave the Hall.
- The use of IT – to enhance learning and a sense of awe and wonder through visual and auditory stimuli.
- Having a focus for the worship, e.g. a "special" table, a cross, pictures, candle etc.
- Discipline will be administered after school worship not during.

### **Role of the Worship Co-ordinator**

The Co-ordinator will:

- plan whole school worship.
- liaise with the music co-ordinator regarding suitable hymns and songs for worship.
- keep up to date with resources.
- evaluate the quality of worship.
- keep a record of school worship.
- review worship in the school and make adjustments where necessary.

### **Resources**

We aim to be richly resourced. These resources are kept and refreshed by the coordinator. The Infant and Junior Libraries both have a section for Religion that contains books that are suitable for using in Collective Worship.

## **Shine Out! Committee**

The Shine Out! Committee is made up of various members of our school community including children from Key Stage Two, a foundation governor and Clergy.

They help us:

- To think about what makes our school special as a Church School.
- To think about how we can make our school a caring place.
- To help plan and improve worship in school.
- To look at what we learn in RE and what resources we use.
- To look at ways we can help our local and wider communities.

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