

Castle Hill St Philip's CE Primary



Collective Worship Policy

'Sharing, caring and learning together with God'

Castle Hill St Philip's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At Castle Hill St Philip's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement:

'Caring, sharing and learning together with God'.

It 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.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of: perseverance, respect, love, forgiveness, responsibility, resilience and koinonia as key values to our school. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

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/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents/carers wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

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 a middle leader on a rota basis.
Tuesday	Class worship- focus on current issues regarding our Christian Value for the term.
Wednesday	Whole school worship led by the Deputy Headteacher- focus on Christian Value
Thursday	Class worship- focus on current issues regarding our Christian Value for the term.
Friday	Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher. Assembly also includes hymn practice.

Each class leads a class assembly twice during the school year when parents/carers, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship, including at the start of the school year and for feast days and communion services throughout the year.

The act of worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's and Wednesday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music, this sets the tone. The adult then leads the children through worship which follows a theme relating to the value, children are encouraged to relate values to their daily lives. A bible story, which links to the value is read. The candle on the table is lit and prayers begin. Prayers are led by a child who focuses the prayer on the theme of the worship, our school prayer is then said. A hymn is then sung. The candle is then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Class worship on Tuesdays and Thursdays is led by class teachers, who use the Christian value as a guide when planning the worship. Worship is planned around current themes, events and affairs which are appropriate to the class. Children can be involved in the planning of class worship.

Friday's celebration assembly celebrates the achievements of role models and learners of the week as well as any other achievements of pupils or staff from the week. Hymns are also practised in this worship with a time for reflection at the end.

Every class leads whole school worship twice a year and parents/carers are invited in to share the experience with the children. These are usually linked to recent learning or to the values that we have been focusing on.

At the start of each new half term, the new Christian Value for the half term is launched. This involves a high impact worship with all children and all members of school staff present which demonstrates the importance of the Christian value and ensure all adults and children are aware of the Christian value for the half term.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection and includes time for singing hymns. A range of prayers are used including prayers written by the children and others which are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

A cross and candle are also displayed on the worship table and children are directed towards these when focusing during reflection and prayer.

Immediately prior to lunch, grace is said by all children and adults and prayers are also said at the end of the school day. These prayers are either taken from the class prayer book and have been written by the children or the class have their own prayers.

Every classroom has a Reflective Area, where the Christian value of the half term is explicitly shared and where the prayer book can be found. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

The school has a Prayer Tree, in the entrance area of the school. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and clip them onto the tree. Sometimes these are related to the Christian value of the half term, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

Other Faiths

At Castle Hill St Philip's our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements. Each year we hold a faith month where each class learns about another faith and visits the place of worship linked to the faith being studied.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Castle Hill St Philip's 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. All Saints Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and Leavers' Services.

Parental Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents/carers. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

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, teachers will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Review

The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed every three years.