

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed Spring 2013
Updated Spring 2016
Approved by C&PW spring 2013 Next
review spring 2019

Reigate Parish Church School is currently a 180-place school for children aged from 4 to 7 years. The school has six classes organised as mixed ability, parallel classes across the three year groups. **There are plans for it to expand over the next four academic years into a two-form primary school.**

The school has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of the school and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children, of any faith or no faith, learn to flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We welcome applications from all members of the community and expect all parents to respect the Christian ethos of the school and its importance to our community.

The School's Vision and Values

Our vision is of children at the heart of an inclusive school where our Christian faith and Christian values support life-long learning through challenge and excitement.

Children are encouraged to explore the meaning of the Christian faith and this is reflected in the content and the conduct of the collective worship.

We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, which we believe help children understand some of the key features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- celebration
- prayer
- say sorry
- sharing
- thanks
- praise
- worship
- reflection

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

Collective Worship is principally a time of sharing and reflecting –an opportunity for worshipping God through listening and participating in stories, music, singing, listening/saying prayers, being quiet before God, thinking about God, listening to other people from the school and from the wider community; celebrating and sharing successes in and out of school.

Staff and visitors from St Mary's Church and other local clergy lead a weekly assembly.

Acts of worship are of a wholly Christian nature. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is clearly stated in the school brochure. Other faiths are respected and any references are positive but their teachings are not explored in Collective Worship. Stories and examples from other cultures are used where the message reinforces the Christian teaching.

Foundation Stage

It is not always appropriate for the very youngest children to be part of every whole school act of worship, particularly while they are still part time and when they have just gone full time. They have their own worship time in class. As the year progresses the Reception children join the whole school in collective worship.

Organisation

Topics for collective worship are based within the broad traditions of Christianity, including:

- Specifically teaching our school Christian values,
- Following the Christian calendar, looking at festivals and celebrations.

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There is a two year programme for collective worship with a different theme planned for each half term.

This is the current pattern of collective worship:

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time	9.30 – 9.45am	9.30 – 9.45am	9.30 – 9.45am	9.30 – 9.45am	9.30 – 9.45am
Theme	Follows the term's plan	Follows the term's plan	Follows the term's plan	Singing worship	Celebration Worship and Achievement
Lead by	Head	Clergy	Staff	Robyn Wright	Head

At the beginning of every Collective Worship three candles are lit, symbolising God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. There is also a cross and both are placed on the special cloth. They also signal that the worship is about to start and it is a time for listening and for peacefulness.

Acts of collective worship contain singing praise, a time for reflection and a prayer as well as the main talk or activity. Children are often involved in the worship through audience participation, individuals role playing and children saying their own prayers. Children are encouraged to sit with the hands together knowing that praying is a time to talk and listen to God. Most prayers are followed with the children reciting the school prayer.

Church links

Every term the school goes to St Mary's Parish Church for a service celebrating Christmas, Easter and our Leaver's service. Parents and Governors are invited to come to these services. The school is also invited to be part of a Sunday family worship at St Mary's during the Autumn Term when the church celebrates Harvest.

Curriculum links and resources

Acts of collective worship are planned to develop the children's understanding of the Christian faith and to contribute to their Spiritual, Social and Cultural development. The themes are often followed up in the RE and PSHE lessons and in the class reflection corner. The resources included in the planning for collective worship are stored in the head teacher's office. Appropriate professional development is organised as appropriate to support teachers in their planning to deliver a "cracking" collective worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out in a number of different ways:

- Annually by the governors
- By inviting the incumbent to observe collective worship
- Regularly asking children and adults their comments and thoughts
- The headteacher carries out monitoring of the collective worship
- Self evaluation is undertaken by using the National Society's self-evaluation toolkit (SIAMS)