



1. Introduction

Schools are required to organise an act of daily collective worship for registered pupils, in order to promote their moral, spiritual and cultural development. As a Church of England school, our daily worship reflects our distinctively Christian Character.

Priory CE Primary School is sensitive to the individual beliefs and faiths of all members of the school and recognises different types of religious faiths and beliefs.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of religious education within the curriculum. Collective worship which is provided in a daily whole-school assembly is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

2. Aims

- To maintain and strengthen our distinctively Christian character.
- To provide opportunity for the children to explore Christianity and worship with a range of staff, our local vicar and other visitors.
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response, via active involvement or through listening and joining in the worship offered.
- To provide children with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- To provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, prayer and reflection.
- To help pupils develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- To develop a spirit of community and an understanding of the feelings of people with different beliefs.
- To acknowledge diversity and affirming each person's life stance.
- To promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To promote our Rights Respecting Ethos.
- To engage pupils in a whole school approach to the PSHE Jigsaw Programme.
- To reinforce positive attitudes and high expectations regarding behaviour and attendance.
- To celebrate achievement including academic, attendance and the development of talents.
- To strengthen our Community links through inviting families each week and having regular worship led by visitors.

3. Meaning of 'collective worship'

According to the Education Reform Act 1988, 'worship' must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence paid to a divine being or power. Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and the difference should be clear. 'Taking part' in collective worship implies that it should elicit a response from pupils, even if some pupils may not be able to actively identify with the act of worship.

4. Organisation and planning

- The Headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Governing Body.
- Our timetable is based on the Christian calendar, Christian teachings and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme. It also includes our Rights Respecting School agenda, Jigsaw, British Values, relevant current affairs and world events.
- Our vicar leads Worship weekly.
- Church representatives and groups lead Worship regularly e.g. 'Open the Book'.
- A number of our worships are led by groups of children such as the Worship Council, School Council, RRS Squad and Priory PALS.



- We focus our worship with a weekly theme, but allow flexibility for current events.
- The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- The act of worship is held for 20 minutes in the school hall or in classes.
- Visitors or guest speakers are sometimes invited to speak or perform in line with the weekly theme. However, we ensure they do not enforce a certain belief or way of thinking and must also ensure that they comply with the collective worship policy.

5. Implementation

Priory aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to the pupil's needs, age and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using devotional, artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage children's interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

6. Central attributes of collective worship

Central attributes of collective worship at Priory involve:

- Gathering – Making significant this part of the day through an appropriate ceremony.
- Engaging – Using a variety of available techniques to engage pupils and stimulate interest.
- Responding – Making sure that there is opportunity and time for all individuals to think and reflect.

7. Right of withdrawal

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship without stating a reason for doing so. However, they are encouraged to discuss their decision with the Headteacher and the following:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require advance notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

8. Children with SEND

Priory will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when organising a collective worship programme and will ensure that content is thought-provoking for every pupil, regardless of their academic ability. One to one support and inclusion programmes will be arranged for individual pupils if the need arises.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of Worship is monitored termly by the Steering Committee which consists of our vicar, the Link Governor, relevant staff and the pupil Worship Council. Pupils are involved in the evaluation of collective worship via feedback from questionnaires and class discussions. All staff are encouraged to contribute to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in order to improve its impact on children. All Governors are encouraged to attend some Worships. The Christian Character Link Governor attends some Worships in a monitoring capacity. This policy is monitored by the Governing Board and will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if necessary.



10. Other related policies

SMSC and British Values
Religious Education
SEND and Inclusion
PSHE – Jigsaw

Policy Author: Pam Keen & Jenny Cunliffe

Policy Approved By: Patricia Hargreaves (Christian Character Link Governor)

Responsible Committee: Full Governing Board

Date Approved: June 2021

Date of Review: June 2023