

Oakley Church of England Junior School COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission Statement

The Community of Oakley Church of England Junior School aims to educate the children in its care intellectually, socially, morally, physically and spiritually, towards his or her potential within a school based on Christian principles.

This school is a Church of England foundation school, safeguarded by the Education Acts. We are required by law to provide daily acts of worship and as a church school these acts will be wholly of a Christian character. They will reflect the virtues and values of Christian ethics and be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

Purpose and nature:

The purpose of our Christian worship is to give opportunity for all members of the school community to gather for worship, to engage in worship and to respond to worship. All acts of worship will include these three elements and provide a suitable conclusion to the act of worship.

Acts of Worship

- Provide pupils with the opportunity for spiritual reflection and development, with the choice of making a personal and private response.
- Deepen pupils' experiences through promoting a sense of mystery and reverence and develop pupils' spirituality.
- Allow us to teach and experience the value of silence, meditation and reflection, and to introduce the children to the practice of prayer.
- Aim to develop a sense of community, an understanding of our place in it, our duty to it and to foster the values of the school community.
- Give us the opportunity to collectively and individually express praise and gratitude, awe and wonder, love and compassion to God and each other.
- Are opportunities for the school and, at times, wider community to come together and engage in this special part of our school day.
- Do not count as curriculum time and should not be used to deliver RE. They can, however, make an important contribution to pupils' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development.

Provision/Pattern

Collective Worship takes place daily. Class teachers are also encouraged to lead acts of worship in their own classroom and children are encouraged to lead these too. Visiting speakers who have an appropriate contribution to make to the school's programme of Collective Worship are welcomed. Representatives from

St Leonard's C.E. Church and the local Methodist Church regularly lead our worship.

Worship at our school is collective and inclusive. Although it should not require a specific faith response our collective worship should nurture those of the Christian faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those of non-faith. We follow a cycle of themes that regularly include Biblical material and have a focus on the person of Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A focus area where artefacts/exhibits from recent acts of worship will be left will help to remind children and to act as a further stimulus to reflection and prayer during subsequent weeks.

Monday	10:20	Whole school worship – Usually led by Head/Deputy
Tuesday	10:20	Lower School worship – hall – Open the Book Upper School worship – class worship or year worship
Wednesday	10:20	Singing worship
Thursday	10:20	Lower School worship– class worship or year worship Upper School worship – hall
Friday	9:05	Whole school worship – Usually led by Head/Deputy or a local Church representative or a class takes on the responsibility

While it may be necessary to gather pupils together for notices and so on, assembly is not worship and should be marked as a separate time, for example blowing out a candle when worship has ended and before notices are given. Notices and other things to celebrate are carefully integrated into the worship as appropriate.

Responsibilities

The governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, have the responsibility for fulfilling the legal requirements. The Headteacher is responsible for the development of Collective Worship and the professional development of staff. Class teachers organise and ensure delivery of class / phase acts of worship following the collective worship themes.

The Headteacher, or delegated member of staff, will monitor the effectiveness of the practice and pattern of worship, including planning and evaluation.

Right of withdrawal

The law recognises that parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship (parents will need to indicate their intention to do so to the head teacher) if they so wish.