



Collective Worship
Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School

Sherborne Abbey, where Learners are valued, cared for and inspired to achieve, while living their lives through Christian Values.

RATIONALE

Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. We actively promote a Christian ethos and our school values are rooted in the Christian faith. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to pray together. It is attended by all students and, on a structured rota, all members of staff. Any visitors in school are very welcome to join us.



THE INTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In keeping with this philosophy, Collective Worship at Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School is planned to:

- Reflect our schools' Trust Deed (reflecting the Anglican status of our school);
- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Underpin our school's Christian values;
- Help children explore and develop their own spirituality;
- Ensure our school's Christian values are lived throughout the school, down corridors, into classrooms and out onto the playground;
- Provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;
- Provide opportunities for staff, pupils, parents, governors and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the school;

- Provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverence, celebration and reflection;
- Enable pupils to reflect on Christian and other worthwhile values and beliefs;
- Reflect some of the practices and traditions of our local churches;
- Celebrate special festivals and occasions in the churches year, including Christmas worship and end-of-year Leavers' Services in Sherborne Abbey;
- Provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths;
- Provide pupils with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to and something to take comfort, love and hope from in difficult times;
- Be regularly monitored and evaluated.



Bishop Karen blessing our Spiritual Garden

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Collective Worship and the Law

As a church school we ensure that every child's entitlement to an opportunity for daily worship is met (see organisation below).

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Our parents are made aware that the school is a church school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is done through the school prospectus and the school website. The governing body is aware of their legal responsibilities and clear on their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of our school. This responsibility to uphold the

Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to all staff on their appointment.



Rights of Withdrawal

At Sherborne Abbey CE School we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Our school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the

Headteacher/Worship Coordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed during this time.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. Collective Worship Coordinator Mr Simon Garnett, along with the Executive Headteacher Mr Ian Bartle and Head of School Ms Emma Charlton, take on the responsibility for organising and planning the school's worship. Local clergy, organised with the help of Sherborne Abbey, are encouraged to be involved in the planning and preparation of school worship as this ensures continuity between the worship in the school and in the parishes. However it is made clear to all staff and clergy leading collective worship, that they should do so in a way that ensures all present can take part with integrity.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place each day between 9:00am and 9:20am, either in the school hall or adjacent music room.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied and this is evidenced in the half termly planning.

Each half term there is a value for Collective Worship based on the 'Roots and Fruits' work of Shane Vickery. These form the schools' Christian values through which we seek to live our lives at Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School. Those leading worship relate their worship to these values. The values are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the worship from their own perspective. This means that by the end of each week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the value from a variety of viewpoints. In addition, class teachers develop and pick up on themes from the values in their classroom during the school week picking up on events that occur in the curriculum and playground. This is evidenced by classroom collective worship boards. Values stickers are also distributed during playtimes and lunchtimes by members of staff highlighting caring practice by pupils, who are demonstrating that they are living our School's Christian Values.

This pattern of values-led assemblies is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. All those leading Collective Worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity, and this is often evidenced by detailed 'Powerpoint slideshows' as well as regular monitoring and evaluation forms. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the Worship Coordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan for the next term. Our Music Co-ordinator Mrs Kirsty Blencowe is present at these meetings to ensure music (in the form of both hymns sung and entrance and exit music played) is a fundamental strand in all our acts of worship.

Who Leads Specific Acts of Collective Worship?

Worship at Sherborne Abbey School is led by a variety of people including: members of staff; whole classes; members of the local clergy; visiting Christian fellowships; the Open The Book Team; visiting speakers including charity campaigners; and, our group of Year 6 pupil worship leaders. Below is a sample timetable of a typical worship week at our school:

Day	Collective Worship		Person Leading
Monday	Whole-school Collective Worship		Mr Ian Bartle
Tuesday	Key Stage Assemblies or In-class Collective Worship		Staff on a rota or class teacher
Wednesday	Worship through music		Mrs Kirsty Blencowe
Thursday	Open the Book Whole School Collective Worship		Ms Emma Charlton or Mr Simon Garnett
Friday	Celebration of Work (Parents invited)		Ms Emma Charlton

The impact of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis. Our foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

Following the planning of worship, the evaluation and recording needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those

leading the worship, other staff, visiting clergy or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the impact process. The school council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the school council. In addition, pupil as well as parent questionnaires are distributed, collected and analysed and their findings acted upon. Pupils from all classes are also asked to evaluate specific acts of worship; and the Headteacher and SMT undertake tri-yearly pupil voice interviews. In class worship pupils at their appropriate levels, discuss elements of that week's worship both clarifying and deepening the pupils understanding of the messages. Classes keep an evidence book of worship. Pupils thus acquire the linguistic tools to discuss elements of belief (some of which – such as the Eucharist and the Trinitarian nature of God – are complex concepts) in varied and meaningful ways at both Pupil Voice and SIAMS level.

Finally Lesley McCreadie, one of the school's foundation governors, takes a leading role monitoring the impact of Collective Worship at the school and plays a crucial supportive role for the worship leaders at the school. As a foundation governor, Leslie is also involved with talking to a cross-section of pupils about worship and feeding back findings to the Headteacher and governing body.

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