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## Vision, Values and Mission Statement

*Reach for the stars*

### Vision

#### ***Reach for the Stars – Living Life in all its fullness***

Thriving on diversity and underpinned by Christian values, Christ Church is an inclusive school where everyone is welcome and valued. Our vision is to shepherd each other in a safe, loving environment, whilst building a solid foundation to encourage and inspire us to reach for our own star.

### Values

- ❖ As a church school our foundations for living and learning are the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The message of God's love for all and the Christian values of **respect, friendship, love, forgiveness, trust, and perseverance** are at the heart of all school life.

### Mission

- ❖ Our mission is to develop independent learners with active and creative minds whilst providing opportunities to reflect and ask some of the "*big questions*" of life.
- ❖ We put the wellbeing and spiritual development of our children first, enabling them all to flourish and be the best they can be.
- ❖ We help children to become confident and successful learners by discovering their gifts and talents. We appreciate hard work, encourage perseverance and resilience and celebrate achievement.
- ❖ We seek to engender the joy and wonder of learning by providing a creative and challenging curriculum using the local community and beyond which makes learning vivid, real, enjoyable and fun.
- ❖ We promote moral development, aspiration and hope. We provide opportunities for our children to engage in social action and be courageous advocates for change in our local, national and global communities.
- ❖ We develop social growth and an understanding and compassion for others. Through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation we encourage good mental health to enable all to live well together.
- ❖ We create a school environment that embraces difference where all children are equal. We cherish ourselves and each other and form healthy relationships offering respect, kindness and dignity.
- ❖ We work as a team, listening to children, considering their views and their parents and involving them in decisions that affect them. We encourage partnerships with governors, parents, our local parish community and the diocese. We promote partnerships locally, nationally and globally in order to become active citizens, global champions and responsible stewards of our world.

## **The Parable of the Lost Sheep** **Luke 15 New International Version (NIV)**

Christ Church has chosen the story of the Good Shepherd to represent our school. This story has been chosen because we are all shepherds caring for each individual child; every last one is important. But the role of sheep and shepherd is interchangeable. Sometimes even staff can be sheep and governors have been the shepherds. Children too can be shepherds as they show kindness and thoughtfulness towards each other and adults in school. The whole school family supports and cares for each other and staff, children and parents change roles.

*15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."*



## **AIMS**

1. To help children discover their place in the world;
2. To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child of God;
3. To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements;
4. To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship;
5. To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms and imagery;
6. To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals;
7. To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life, to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these and to support the search for meaning;
8. To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, trust, respect, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation;
9. To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings;
10. To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development;
11. To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others;
12. To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with the faith of the people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church;
13. To encourage stewardship, respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues;
14. To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy;
15. To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others;
16. To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God.

## **Rationale**

Collective Worship at Christ Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

The content of all our acts of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of this Church of England School.

This policy has been prepared by the Head Teacher with assistance from the school's teaching staff, the governors and Father Allan. Pupil's views have also been considered.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship; such requests should be made in writing if possible (Exceptions could include families of different faiths who have English as an additional language).

All teaching staff are expected to attend acts of Collective Worship in accordance with their National Society Contracts (Clauses 8a and 8b). As many non teaching staff as possible are also expected to attend acts of Collective Worship although it is recognised that it is necessary for a classroom assistant to supervise children whose parents have exercised their right to withdraw their child from acts of worship.

## **What is collective worship?**

Christian worship is an honouring of God. It acknowledges His transcendence and Holiness; His worth and value. It is a loving response to His nature as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship stems from personal experience: it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God.

Christ Church has pupils and families who come from a variety of backgrounds including other faiths. Responses to collective worship may be in different ways and at different levels. It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

## **Management of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a vital part of the school timetable. Not only does it emphasise to the children the Christian character of the school, but it provides us with an ideal opportunity to highlight the values that we wish to promote within our school.

In a typical week the following format for Collective Worship is followed.

- Monday – Whole school collective worship normally led by the Head Teacher or the Deputy Head Teacher in the Head Teacher's absence.
- Tuesday morning act of worship – *Open the Book* project
- Wednesday –Class Collective Worship
- Thursday – led by Father Allan or a member of the local clergy from various denominations.
- Friday – Whole school Achievers' Collective Worship led by the HT or Deputy Head in the Head teacher's absence. Parents welcome.

Collective worship begins at 9.10 and finishes at 9.30am.

A list of weekly themes is produced by Father Allan and the head teacher, who is the named co-ordinator of Collective Worship, for each term of the school year. The school follows closely the themes and topics suggested by the Diocese of Newcastle.

The school's music co-ordinator with the assistance of the HT is responsible for planning and teaching the music to be used within the act of Collective Worship. Suggestions are planned on a termly basis linked to themes planned.

Special acts of collective worship are organised as follows:

Harvest Festival Service	~	Whole school
Nativity Service	~	Whole school
Easter service	~	Whole school

All of the above are held in the school hall.

Other special acts of collective worship are held in Christ Church and St Nicholas' Cathedral.

Christingle service	~	Key stage 1 & 2
The Epiphany	~	Key Stage 1 & 2
All Saints Day	~	KS1 & KS2
Ash Wednesday	~	KS2
Leavers' Service	~	Year 6 children at the cathedral

In addition all classrooms support collection worship and contain an *Area for Reflection*. This contains as a minimum:

- ✓ A copy of the School Prayer
- ✓ Lunch time prayers
- ✓ A copy of the End of Day Prayer
- ✓ The class prayer board for use in Collective Worship
- ✓ Class RE scrapbook
- ✓ Posters etc. promoting Christian values etc.

Examples of children's work and religious artefacts can also be included in these areas.

### **Planning acts of collective worship**

All leaders of collective worship use the standard planning grid for recording collective worship. Resources to support collective worship are stored in the staff room in the labelled box. Opportunities for professional development in collective worship, takes place annually.

### **Pupil Participation in Collective worship**

At Christ Church CE Primary children are not just passive spectators but enthusiastic contributors.

Ways children participate include:

- ✓ Singing including choosing the hymns
- ✓ Praying
- ✓ Bringing requests for prayers from their class prayer boards
- ✓ Writing their own prayers
- ✓ Asking and answering questions

- ✓ Empathising with characters in stories and relating them to their own lives
- ✓ Reflecting on questions and stories
- ✓ Role play and drama
- ✓ Lighting the candle
- ✓ Reading and writing.

### **Content of Collective Worship**

Each act of Collective Worship should:

- ✓ create mood / atmosphere
- ✓ evoke a response
- ✓ encourage active participation by the children
- ✓ encourage reflection and stillness
- ✓ include listening, sharing and thinking time
- ✓ link to the theme.

The following list contains a wide variety of opportunities, which we provide for our children during collective worship throughout the school term.

These include:

- ✓ establishing positive school relationships based on respect, friendship, love, forgiveness, perseverance and trust;
- ✓ the development of a sense of belonging;
- ✓ a consideration of innermost thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- ✓ expressions of creativity and imagination;
- ✓ appreciating and valuing the feelings of others;
- ✓ exploring lives, events and beliefs which exemplify qualities and universal values;
- ✓ exploring ideas about the origin of the world and the universe;
- ✓ an awareness of the order and pattern within the natural world;
- ✓ an awareness of change.

### **The contribution of collective worship to other areas of the curriculum**

Collective worship contributes to learning across the curriculum. Examples include:

#### **RE**

- Reflection on their own beliefs and values, and those of others;
- Celebration of pupils' own and others' religious and cultural traditions;
- Appreciating and valuing the beliefs and practices of the Church of England;
- Appreciating and valuing the beliefs of others.

#### **Literacy**

- Stories including those from other cultures and faiths;
- Exploring how humans use language to convey inner meaning e.g. symbolism, allegory, analogy, myth, metaphor.

#### **Community Cohesion**

- Reinforces a sense of group and community identity;
- Provides an opportunity for celebrating success and times of joy;

- Provides an opportunity for being together in times of sadness and sorrow;
- Offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year such as festivals and international, national and local events;
- Learning to treat all people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

### **Collective Worship can make a significant contribution to pupils' moral, social, cultural and spiritual development.**

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **spiritual** development by providing opportunities to:

- celebrate all that is good and lovely and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of life and our existence;
- experience times of quiet and stillness;
- look for meaning and purpose in the world;
- encourage a sense of wonder, awe and mystery in the natural world;
- experience materials from other religions and other sources which suggest that there is more to life than the immediate and the material.

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **moral** development by providing opportunities to:

- reflect on issues of right and wrong;
- hear about people in whom and in which goodness, moral awareness and rightness are exemplified;
- raise awareness of the hurt caused by injustice and aggression;
- learn about religious and other teachings concerned with right and wrong;
- learn and understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- accept and reflect upon other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) and that these should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **social** development by providing opportunities to:

- gather with others for a common purpose;
- share times of joy and sadness with others in the community;
- learn how to behave appropriately within a particular social setting.

Collective worship contributes to pupils' **cultural** development by providing opportunities to:

- hear music and stories from a range of cultures, times and places;
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and what is pleasing to the eye and ear;
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and wider society.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

All leaders of Collective Worship evaluate their own Collective Worship on a weekly basis. The planning and evaluation records of Collective Worship are monitored termly by the head teacher and discussed with the vicar. Feedback is given during staff meetings.

Pupils and more recently staff are involved in formally evaluating the quality of collective worship as their views are collected collated every two years. Their comments are also requested/listened to informally throughout the year.



Regular feedback to governors is given in the head teacher's reports or during governors' meetings. In addition, informal monitoring and evaluation by Father Allan and other Foundation governors takes place as they regularly participate in Collective Worship.

The Collective worship policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the governors.

**Success Criteria**

An effective daily act of Collective Worship which promotes:

- i. the values of the school;
- ii. the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children;
- iii. respect for the beliefs and values of others;
- iv. the gifts and talents of our pupils.