



Shiplake C.E. Primary School

Memorial Avenue

Shiplake, Oxon

RG9 4DN

0118 940 2024

office.3810@shiplake.oxon.sch.uk

***'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you' Psalm 32.8***

## **Shiplake CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy**

Shiplake CE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school in the Diocese of Oxford. It is a community school which welcomes families of all faiths and beliefs. The policy arrangement for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Governing Body, in consultation with the headteacher. The Governors will, so far as is reasonably practicable, make necessary arrangements for the Act of Worship to be consistent with the purpose of the school.

Collective Worship in this Voluntary Aided school is rooted in the Christian faith and will be consistent with the faith and practices of the Church of England. It reflects something special and separate from ordinary school activities. However it cannot always be assumed that those participating will have a common belief. It is essential therefore that the religious teaching, although mainly Christian, be balanced and broadly based and will promote not only spiritual development, but also the moral, cultural and mental development of pupils.

The daily Act of Worship is central to the life of the school, although parents do have the right to withdraw their children either wholly or partly from this. The school Governors hope that families would first discuss the issues with the school prior to taking such action. Children in Foundation Stage do not come to the whole school Act of Worship every day to begin with, but gradually as the academic year progresses they are able to participate in all of them.



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Daily Collective Worship will normally take place at the school but the Governing Body has the discretion to organise worship elsewhere on special occasions. Legislation also provides for some flexibility in the timing and organisation of such worship. There may be a single Act of Worship for all pupils or separate Acts of Worship for different groups such as KS1 and KS2. Worship will usually take place during each morning but occasionally the Act of Worship will be conducted during the afternoon. Once in each week within the Act of Worship there will be an opportunity for all pupils to practise hymns of praise. Each day before lunch the children say a form of grace.

Collective Worship and Assembly are distinct activities. The two will take place as part of the same gathering but there is a clear difference. Collective Worship will however be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school, and it implies more than a passive attendance. It will be appropriate for, and include, all the pupils. During the gathering, "assembly" time will be used, as appropriate for dealing with the dissemination of information relevant to the school's activities at that time.

Collective Worship will offer pupils opportunities to:

- Explore and share beliefs,
- Consider the importance of prayer, meditation, reflection and silence,
- Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives,
- Think about the needs of others
- Develop a sense of community.



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School Worship will also offer an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the beliefs of the school – a time to celebrate achievements, the values and the ethos of the school as a whole.

The themes and content of Collective Acts of Worship will be wide and varied. They will all be underpinned by Christian beliefs and values. The Bible will form a central part of our Collective Worship with children hearing stories from the Bible. They will have the opportunity to reflect on our school vision and values and offer suggestions about how the stories are still relevant to us today. The children will also consider aspects of citizenship and how the stories support moral values within our community.

Music has always played an important part in worship. Traditional hymns and modern songs will be sung and links to Bible passages will be made where possible.

Each Act of Worship will contain elements of prayer. Children will learn prayers, including the Lord's Prayer and the school prayer. Their own prayers may be used as well. They will listen to prayers and have the opportunity to reflect and silently pray.

An Act of Worship may be led by a variety of people, including the headteacher, teachers, vicars, class groups, children or a visitor. Parents and friends are invited to join the pupils for some Acts of Worship, especially at the end of each term, often held at the Parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul.

As an Anglican school, our worship will often reflect some of the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship. These may include for example:



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- Christian symbols and their use e.g. bread, wine, cross etc.
- The cycle of the Christian year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost
- Regular visits from the vicars of the Parish.

We value the daily opportunity to worship together as a school family. It is a special time to be together – to think, to share, to listen, to pray and to be together in silence. It is a time to reflect on what we value and believe.

Updated November 2023 (KLPH)

3 year cycle of review