



A CHILDREN'S POLICY FOR OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Who worships?

At our school parents can choose for the child to join in our worship or to have quiet time in another area. Most people join us as a family who worship God in our Church school. Church schools are not just for Christians, children who follow a different faith also come to our school and we all respect each other's ideas about our faith.

Why do we worship?

Faith means we believe in a God or Gods and for Christians we join together in an Act of Collective Worship to thank our God through our prayers and praise Him through songs. Worship is at 10.30 each morning; it is when we make time for God in our busy lives. We worship for 15 minutes most days and 20 minutes on Tuesdays with the Vicar. In those minutes we make sure that we 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our souls and with all our minds and all our strength', just as the song says! We want everyone to feel respectful and calm but relaxed and comfortable and welcome in God's family.

Who do we Worship?

Our God is **God the Father**, **God the Son** (Jesus) and **God the Holy Spirit**. These three parts of God are called the TRINITY. Everyday our worship reminds us of:

God the Father: We say a prayer to God the Father called 'The Lord's Prayer' and it begins with 'Our Father'. In the Bible it tells us that Jesus taught it to us.

God the Son: Our school Prayer begins 'O Jesus' and we ask for help to follow in His footsteps and try to be as good and kind as He is.

God the Holy Spirit: At the end of our Worship we say the Grace to ask that God as 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' be with us in our daily life. We know that as the Spirit, God can be with us everywhere and that He is in all of the created world. God is LIFE.

What do we do in our worship?

When we come to Collective Worship, we are showing that we are the Family of God (children and grown-ups who work in our school, our parents, friends and visitors), we are a community and value this time worshipping together. We gather with a call and response: We gather in Jesus name - help us explore, discover and learn together.

When we pray we talk to God; we do this out loud when we pray together and sometimes, quietly in our own heads, and we know God can hear us.

When we look at our cross and candle, (and sometimes, at flowers and beautiful pictures of God's creation or God's family) it helps us to think about God and give our worship time as a special time to Him. We light our candle as a 'symbol' (sign) that Jesus is with us as the 'light of the world' and that He is with us in our worship and daily life. We hope that like a candle lights the darkness, you feel that He will help you when you are afraid or worried.

When we sing it is important that we all join in. We choose songs that match with the seasons, the Christian year, our Family of God or giving thanks. Some are fun and louder, some are softer and thoughtful. Our songs can show the mood of our worship and that there are sad times, happy time and peaceful times. Year 6 worship monitors choose the song collection for each week to reflect the theme. We have broadened our action and signing songs to include all.

When we listen to music, it can make us feel calm or lively. We use music as part of our worship, or to come in or leave by. When our musicians play for us, we celebrate their talents and are joyful in sharing with them

When we share our gifts from God, we are thanking Him and celebrating our talents and showing that we are all different and can serve God in different ways. You might share special work with us to show us how good your work is or to help us to learn something new from you. You might share a prayer that you have written or a poem. We celebrate when our team wins or plays sport with fair play. We clap children who join in competitions for sport, music or art. We often thank those children and grown-ups who look after our plants and make our school look so lovely, it takes special gifts and talents to look after nature and wonder at God's creation. We celebrate when someone looks after another, like when we award our special 'guardian angel' or thank someone for their kindness.

When we listen we learn about God and Jesus, the Christian Church and how Christians live their lives and celebrate the Christian year. We listen to stories that make us think carefully about our lives and how we live with others. Sometimes we learn about other faiths so that we can come to understand different beliefs and ways of living. The Vicar tells us about Christian festivals and we join in services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We learn about Advent, Lent and Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). When we learn about something for a few weeks we call it a THEME, like learning about 'New Life' through Lent and Easter.

When we join in through acting out stories, sharing answers and ideas, performing dance and music or making something for everyone to look at (like an Advent ring, a picture or model), we are adding to the worship and helping everyone to remember the Message of our worship.

When we feel a sense of awe and wonder we recognise that we are a special part of God's awesome, wonderful creation and that He is INFINITE and OMNIPRESENT (never ending and all around), sometimes we can't answer questions about God because He is too marvelous and we marvel at His work.

When we reflect we think about our life and REFLECT ON (think about) what we have learned for our own lives. It might be about the way we behave (our moral and social life) or about how we feel inside and our sense of peace, calm and connectedness to the Spiritual world which is greater than our day to day routines. Reflection is our quiet time with our God.

