


Church Hill C of E Junior School

Let Your Light Shine



Together Everyone Achieves More

Collective Worship Policy

Signed by: 

Date:9/11/23.....

Approved by Governor

Date:09/11/23.....

Signed on behalf of the Governing body: 

(Chair of Governors)

Next Review Date: November 2024

Church Hill Church of England Junior School



Church Hill Church of England Junior school's Christian vision

'Let your light shine!'

"In the same way, **let your light shine** before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5 v.16

Together, with Jesus, everyone strives to make a difference within our community by letting God's light shine. In the same way, we achieve and accomplish more with our Christian values of thankfulness, respect, truthfulness, kindness, responsibility, courage, fairness and community (Koinonia) creating a flourishing school glorifying God our Father.

Church Hill Church of England Junior School endeavours to provide a caring Christian environment where all members of the community are valued and respected to let their light shine. Collective Worship is at the heart of our school community. The Gospel values of love, forgiveness and peace will be promoted in all aspects of school life. Our Collective Worship is based on Christian principles from the life and example of Jesus Christ who taught that we should care for all, regardless of creed, race or colour.

The daily act of collective worship, named by our children as our 'Get Together', will be wholly Christian in nature, aiming to provide pupils with an encounter with Jesus and conversations about God. However, it is also welcoming, inclusive and invitational, giving those children of other faiths and none an opportunity to experience their own journeys of faith and belief. It will seek to encourage the children to explore their own spirituality and to consider moral issues. Children will also be encouraged to value and respect the beliefs of other religions significant within our school community and our British and global society.

At Church Hill, the 'Get Together' worship timetable is written by the Collective Worship co-ordinator drawing on the school vision 'Let Your Light Shine', church calendar events, Christian and British values as well as themed weeks throughout the school year. It also incorporates issues of global citizenship as we encourage all to become courageous advocates within our community. Themes and presentations link to the Big Bible Story frieze from Understanding Christianity and to how God brings change in our lives as we grow in knowledge of him to let our light shine.

The Education Reform Act 1996 requires that every maintained school include provision for a daily act of collective worship. The rights of parents to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship, Get Together, forms an integral part of the 1996 Education Reform Act. Any parent wishing to withdraw their child may do so, in consultation with the Headteacher. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from the act of collective worship will be requested by the Headteacher to sign an official consent form to this effect. (Appendix 1)

CHRISTIAN VALUES

As a Church of England School, we believe that Christian values should be central to all we do. A set of Christian values, personal to our school are worked on throughout our school year in our 'Get Togethers', PSHE, R.E. as well as our value of the fortnight. These are: Responsibility, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Truthfulness, Fairness, Kindness and Thankfulness. These values are displayed in each classroom and on our windows. Our Star of the Week certificates link to the Christian Value awarded which pupils receive during our weekly Celebration Get Together. Christian value activities are also promoted and participated within our weeks themed around our values.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Get Togethers should be inclusive, invitation and inspiring. Through the daily act of collective worship in our school we aim for children and adults to:

- ✓ Allow God to let his light shine in and through our lives, by exploring our school vision to 'Let Your Light Shine.' (Matthew 5:16)
- ✓ Reflection on our school values of Responsibility, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Truthfulness, Fairness, Kindness and Thankfulness that will contribute to the development of character.
- ✓ To consider the relevance of faith in today's world and to encounter the trinitarian nature of God.
- ✓ Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, stillness, worship, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere
- ✓ Create a sense of school identity, and of belonging to a school community and the family of God
- ✓ Show children that we are members of a wider community, both local, national and global
- ✓ Encourage care and concern for others in society, and the natural world
- ✓ Help children to reflect on a wide variety of issues and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous
- ✓ Reflect on values and concerns for the school community and the community it serves
- ✓ To be inclusive of children of other faiths and also of no faith.
- ✓ Encourage a sense of self –worth and to value others
- ✓ Develop an awareness that life involves choices of belief, attitude and behaviour
- ✓ Develop the skills to plan, lead, and evaluate collective worship.

APPROACHES

In our daily 'Get Togethers', we endeavour to ensure that we connect our communities in the following ways:

- ✓ Children and adults take away something to consider and apply to their daily life within school and the community
- ✓ Families are encouraged to attend on a variety of occasions
- ✓ Links with St. Michael and All Angels Church and other links within our community and beyond are developed, strengthened and maintained

PARTICIPATION

The role of the pupils in 'Get Togethers' is viewed as active and inclusive.

Their participation can take a variety of forms including:

- ✓ Answering questions
- ✓ Singing songs and hymns
- ✓ Taking part in drama
- ✓ Silent reflection
- ✓ Responding in thought, word or deed: individually, pairs etc...
- ✓ Sharing successes or experiences
- ✓ Leading and participating in prayer

A child should lead a part of the Get Together each day, either through choosing the music, leading the prayer or reading a story. A group of children plan, organise and lead a whole 'Get Together', once a month and present this to the whole school engaging their peers in activities, drama, prayer and song to draw out and challenge one another to change in their own life.

PLANNING and IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ The daily 'Get Together' takes place in a variety of formats. 'Get Togethers' are planned on a termly basis to follow a theme which promotes spiritual, cultural and moral development. These themes are linked to:
 - ✓
 - Christian Values
 - British Values
 - Religious festivals
 - Special days
 - Special events in the life of the school
 - Topics being undertaken
 - The Big Bible Story Understanding Christianity Frieze

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and in planning these should be included.

- ✓ Artefacts, visual aids or other items of interest are included, where appropriate
- ✓ Opportunities are given for silent reflection and prayer
- ✓ Opportunities are given for celebrating individual, group and whole school successes and talents
- ✓ There is a balance between music, speech and silence
- ✓ There is a focal point at the front of the hall during prayer and reflection
- ✓ Children are actively involved as much as possible
- ✓ Subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of the children
- ✓ Opportunities to worship in different places around the school including outside in our reflection area.
- ✓ We acknowledge that occasionally, the format of the 'Get Togethers' may be altered to accommodate occasional changes to the normal pattern of the school day.

MONDAY – whole school 'Get Together' led by a member of the teaching staff (20 minutes)

TUESDAY – class 'Get Together' / reflection time. Each class has an opportunity to use the outside reflective area for worship during this time on a rota basis. (20 mins)

WEDNESDAY - whole school praise and reflection through singing led by the Head Teacher. (20 minutes)

THURSDAY – whole school 'Get Together' led by the Head Teacher or SLT. (20 mins)

FRIDAY – whole school 'Get Together' celebrating the talents and achievements of our school community led by the Headteacher or a member of the Leadership Team (20 minutes)

Year groups prepare and perform 'Get Togethers', to which families are invited e.g., our annual carol service Get Together and Easter Get Together. Children are invited to celebrate their talents through 'live performance' during these 'Get Togethers'.

Themes for 'Get Togethers' are followed by all teachers. Class reflection time reflects the current theme and allows time for activities to be undertaken by that class during the term. The choice of music for praise and reflection through singing and or silence is chosen purposefully to support the 'Get Together' theme and /or create the correct mood e.g A Prayer for the Earth. Music chosen is from either our subscription to Out of the Ark or Songs from YouTube.

Staff training takes place as part of the whole school training and development plan so all staff can adapt and improve practise. All staff leading collective worship have had bespoke training, including an opportunity to view and discuss and model act of collective worship.

'Get Togethers' usually take place in school although we also visit St. Michael and All Angels Church in Thurmaston. At our local church, the children lead our 'Get Togethers' throughout the year including an annual Harvest celebration where the children are encouraged to support our local food bank and an Easter service led by Year 4 children as well as a Year 6 Leaver's service. Parable Arts, led by Wendy Scales, also visits on a regular basis, providing Christian teaching

through art, drama and puppet show. Mrs. Mandy Green, our local children and family's worker as well as Rev. Steve Sweet, from the Living Hope church visit and lead worship providing many opportunities for children to connect with community figures. Currently, there is a pastoral vacancy at St Michael and All Angels therefore no minister visiting from the Parish.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Seating

While the children are in the hall, they sit in year groups on the floor.

Music

Singing and music are important elements of our 'Get Together' worship. Music is chosen weekly by staff to support and reflect the current 'Get Together' theme, and introduces each 'Get Together'. Singing is accompanied either by recorded music on CD or streamed online. Songs are chosen carefully by selecting those with meaningful lyrics and have a diverse cultural base so children appreciate the global nature of Christianity. Music is played whilst pupils are entering and leaving assembly. The projector is used to display the words of the song/hymn the children are to sing or prompts children to think whilst listening to the music.

Liturgy and lighting the candle

Every 'Get Together' starts with the same introduction reminding everyone about the Trinity and can be participated in by all or led centrally. The member of staff leading the 'Get Together' will set up the focus table with a bible for the symbol of God the Father, the cross for the symbol of God the Son and will light a candle for the symbol of the Holy Spirit and this is placed on the focus table.

Focus Table

The focus table is placed at the front of the school hall during 'Get Togethers'. Artefacts related to the theme are displayed on here and referred to and shared with the pupils.

Prayers

Prayer is included throughout the day at Church Hill. Classes share a different child friendly prayer at the start of each day including both the grace and the Lord's Prayer. Before lunch, a child shares one of the class prayers written by the children. In Get Togethers, children may be asked for prayer pointers to cover issues on their minds, lead prayer, read a prayer of their own or share the school prayer. Pupils are given the opportunity for reflection and / or prayer and we encourage them to explore their own beliefs and actions, and to consider spiritual and moral issues thereby letting their light shine. There are opportunities through our prayer bags for children to develop personal prayer and a prayer dice helps to develop spontaneous prayer. We also have prayer partners with our parish Church.

MONITORING and EVALUATION

Each 'Get Together' is timetabled on a termly plan. All staff have a copy. Pupil interviews are carried out annually and responses are reviewed. Through staff meetings, PTA and school council children's ideas are taken into consideration as part of the listening and reflecting ethos of our school. Governors monitor collective worship and any actions feed into the school Learning Improvement Plan.

Evaluations by staff are carried out by team teachers following the rota each term. Pupil evaluations are carried out also on a class rota basis. Feedback and suggestions are shared across the staff to inform and improve future planning and link to the learning improvement plan. Children give feedback through discussion during class 'Get Togethers'.

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The Governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governors on Collective Worship.

The policy was updated in Autumn 2023. The school will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

RESOURCES

There are a variety of specific artefacts to aid the Worship times. These include:

- ✓ A variety of crosses, candles, other religious symbols
- ✓ Posters, Bibles/ Bible stories, prayer books, music, resources from the internet and cloths for the focus table
- ✓ There are boxes for each religion containing pertinent materials

These are kept in the Religious Education cupboard, located near to the school office and the 'Get Together' cupboard in the school hall.

(Appendix 1)

Church Hill Church of England Junior School



PARENTAL REQUEST to WITHDRAW a CHILD from the DAILY ACT of COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 'Get Together'

Child's Name

Class

I formally request that my child does not attend any daily 'Get Together'.

I understand that during the time when my child is withdrawn, he/she will be adequately supervised within school.

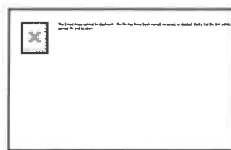
I accept that my child will receive no formal instruction during this time, though private study will be encouraged. I undertake to provide my child with their own faith material to study privately whilst school assembly is in session.

Signed (parent / guardian)

Date

Name

Church Hill Church of England Junior School



PARENTAL REQUEST to WITHDRAW a CHILD from participation in RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Child's Name

Class

I formally request that my child does not attend any Religious Education (RE) lessons.

I understand that during class RE lessons my child may remain in the classroom, or be accommodated elsewhere in the school to undertake an alternative quiet activity.

I accept that my child will receive no formal instruction during this time, though private study will be encouraged. I undertake to provide my child with his/her own faith material to study during these times.

Signed (parent / guardian)

Date

Name

Religion and World Views and 'Get Together' Co-ordinator

Mrs S.A.Down
Autumn 2023