

## SHALFLEET C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As a Christian school, we value each child as special and unique in the sight of God, and, through the love, challenge and opportunities we offer, seek to enable them to develop as confident, caring and successful young people within our 'Safe Haven'.

### Philosophy

As a Church of England School our daily acts of worship are at the very heart of our school life and contribute to the spiritual foundations being laid in the lives of the children.

### Principles

- Through participation in celebration and thanksgiving, meditation and prayer, collective worship should provide an opportunity for the sharing of emotions, special times, achievements, happy times and sad times and encourage a sense of community and caring in all.
- Collective Worship should give opportunities for children to be introduced to Christian Worship. It should include relevant features from Christian Worship such as prayers, hymns and readings from the Bible.
- All members of the school community -staff, governors, parents/carers as well as children - should be encouraged to take part, when possible, in the different acts of collective worship
- Visiting speakers should be invited, to provide a rich variety of input.
- Acts of collective worship should increase the sensitivity of the children to the mystery of life and the idea of sacredness both in religious and wider human experience.
- Within the school setting as a whole, and within each class, there should be a special place which is recognised as a focus area for worship, and where children become aware that a reverent and thoughtful approach is appropriate.
- All who take part should feel comfortable with their own personal response to the experiences encountered within the act of worship - whether their response is active, or that of being an observer.
- Collective Worship should therefore be inclusive of all who participate, not violating the integrity of any individual but enabling spiritual gain for all, as each individual is able to recognise and celebrate the beliefs and values of people within the school, the community and the world they live in.

### Procedures

1. Collective Worship takes place each day either as a whole school gathering, or once a week, within a smaller class based group. Although it normally takes place near the start of the school day it can also happen at different times during the day and can take different forms.
2. The planning of all Collective Worship is Christian in content, falling within the broad traditions of Anglicanism.
3. Links with St. Michael's Church and other Christian communities are developed through regular visits to school by the Vicar, Rev. David Bevington, and other outside speakers and through termly visits to St Michael's Church by the school at Christmas, Easter and, when possible, for other special events.
4. Spiritual awareness is fostered through:
  - a. music which helps create a worshipful atmosphere,
  - b. participation in singing, prayer, reading, dance and drama relevant to the particular children involved,
  - c. the use of stories and visual aids such as the lighting of a candle
  - d. the use of Christian symbols and a focus area for worship, found centrally in the Hall and also in each classroom,
  - e. and also through the use of some traditional Christian responses and greetings such as 'The Lord be with you...and also with you.'
5. Opportunities are provided for pupils to take an individual, active role in collective worship through sharing thoughts, readings and prayers.
6. Each week has a specific theme. These are drawn from the cycle of the Christian year, events in the life of the school, national commemorations and concerns, themes relevant to the pupils' lives etc. They follow a two year rolling programme. A daily record is kept of the content of the Acts of Collective Worship including visits, visitors, and a brief reflection. These records are available to parents on request.
7. Each week a special Celebration Collective Worship takes place where achievements and events in all aspects of the lives of the children and the school are celebrated with the whole school community as the main focus of the act of worship.
8. At the beginning of each new year there is a special Celebration Collective Worship where God's blessing is asked on the school for the year ahead
9. Visitors are always welcome to join us in our school acts of worship.
10. The school acknowledges the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship as outlined in the school handbook.

**Ratified by the Governors.....Signed.....**  
**Review date.....**