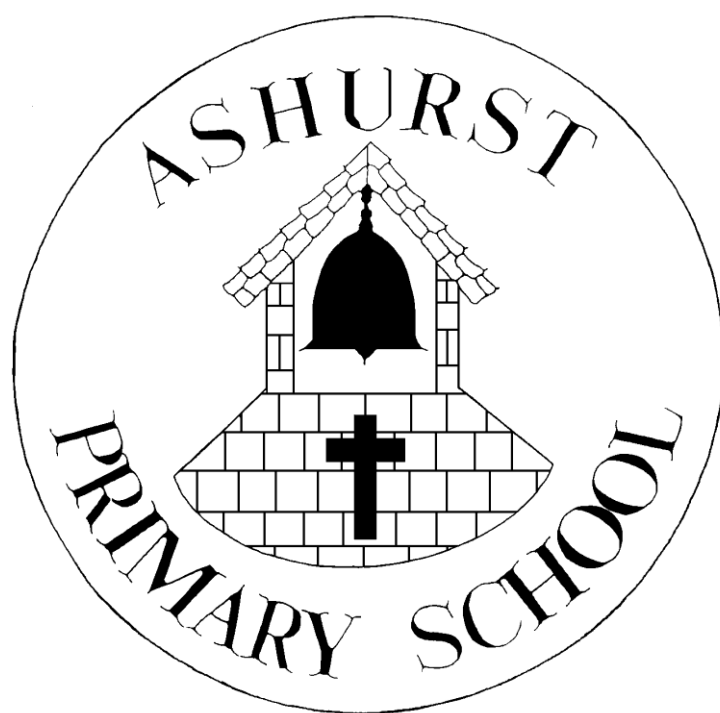


Ashurst Primary School



**Collective Worship
from 2015-2019**

INTRODUCTION

This Policy Statement was drawn up by the Foundation Governors in consultation with the Headteacher and staff; and is published annually in the School Prospectus.

The next *formal* review of the Statement will be from Autumn 2019, or sooner if appropriate.

A daily Act of Worship is held which, as an Aided School, is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed reflecting the tradition of the Church of England. It is also an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship following consultation with the Headteacher

THE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

"At Ashurst CE Aided Primary School we aim to provide all children with an education of the highest quality within a truly Christian atmosphere that genuinely values every member of the school community. "

WORSHIP IN A CHURCH SCHOOL

Collective Worship at Ashurst CE Aided Primary School is based upon the principles and practice of the Church of England.

The school aims to introduce pupils to Christian teachings, to give them the opportunity to experience collective worship and to nurture their spiritual development in a Christian environment.

With knowledge and understanding pupils are better able to make informed choices and the school respects pupils' ultimate right to choose.

The school may not see the fruits of its input during the primary years since pupils' responses to worship are not always immediate and/or observable.

Being a Christian is a journey for life. It is based upon deep faith and belief and is influenced by family, environment and experience.

The following **KEY PRINCIPLES** are followed:

- Worship should aim to be central to school life; good worship gathers together and offers to God, the ethos, life and work of the school.
- Worship should aim to contribute to the spiritual development of the child; good worship offers the child the opportunity to develop a sense of wonder, awe and mystery.
- Worship should aim to be inclusive; good worship engages everyone present in his/her own way.
- Worship should aim to be educational; good worship develops children's ideas about God.
- Worship should aim to be cross-curricular; good worship shows appropriate links across the curriculum, with RE Policy and on-going class work.
- Worship should aim to be stimulating and reflective; good worship increases children's awareness of God through varied experiences.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To offer children the opportunity to experience Collective Worship without assuming any particular religious beliefs.
- To increase sensitivity towards and awareness of the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries.
- To encourage a reflective approach to life.
- To provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them.
- To ensure that experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and background of the children.
- To develop group or school identity and fellowship by bringing children together.

ORGANISATION

In a *typical* week the whole school *assembles* on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and separately in respective infant/FS&KS1 and junior/KS2 classrooms on Tuesday and Thursday.

In general, Rector Father Neil leads one weekly Act of Collective Worship, the Headteacher, Mrs Williams two and classteachers their own respective KS1/KS2 *assemblies* and Acts of Worship.

One of the weekly whole school assemblies is known as the 'Sharing Assembly'. Pupils and staff come together to celebrate individual and group/team achievements in and out of school, to thank God for their special and unique skills, talents and gifts and for pupils - individually and/or collectively - to raise issues/concerns for open discussion with fellow pupils and/or members of staff.

Details/minutes of the 'Pupil/s' Voice' are *recorded* by pupils in Year 6 and the Pupils' Voice Minute Book forms an item at half/termly meetings of the Full Governing Body .

Parents, friends and members of the community are invited to several *Special/ Sharing Assemblies* throughout the academic year to join in the enjoyment and celebration of pupils' achievements and progress during the term.

Appropriate music is played at the beginning and ending of each assembly to *signify* the special quality of the occasion and to allow all present the opportunity for peaceful reflection. There is a point of focus: a lighted candle, a vase of flowers and/or a picture - something relevant to the theme of the assembly - to inspire those present to contribute to the experience in a meaningful way if and when required.

The Assembly is often prepared by senior pupils who hand out hymn books and select hymns and/or music, as appropriate.

The school's *musicians* sometimes play in the assembly.

Prayers are said at various times throughout assemblies and quality time is given for personal reflection. The Lord's Prayer is taught to pupils and other much-loved prayers that are part of the Christian heritage, eg that of St. Richard of Chichester, are used.

On many appropriate occasions throughout the year, Assemblies are held outside of the school building for all to enjoy being inspired by the wonders of nature.

All members of the school staff are invited to be present for Acts of Worship.

There is a Family Service on the second Sunday of each month at St James' Church, Ashurst to which all associated with the school are invited. The *topics* for the Family Services are generally introduced to pupils by Father Neil, as appropriate, at the school assembly held the previous week.

For the Sunday Harvest Festival Service at St James' Church in October, pupils in Year Six decorate the Church with the school's work drawn/painted/written especially for the occasion. During the Service, pupils *present* their work to the congregation and at the end, cakes, often made by pupils, are readily eaten and enjoyed.

The Mothering Sunday Family Service in March enjoys much the same sort of *pattern*. There is the addition, at the end of the Service, of not only a delicious cake, but also of a special gift for all ladies present in the congregation.

In May, there is a Rogation Sunday Service, held on the Recreation Field at Ashurst, which brings together school families and representatives of all local churches, including those of St James' Church, for special prayers and a picnic.

There is a special Christingle Service and Carol Service in December; and the story of The Nativity told by infant pupils and to which all families, friends and the local community are invited to attend.

Pupils in Year Six attend the Leavers' Assembly in Chichester Cathedral/Lancing College at the end of June each year - followed by a *garden lunch* with school staff and their parents, afterwards. They also prepare and present "thank you" and "goodbye" messages to all associated with the school at their own special Leavers' Service in July. It is always fitting tribute and conclusion to their primary years at Ashurst.

Grace is said before all meals, including when pupils are out of school on school visits. Pupils have produced their own book of prayers to celebrate *Grace*.

All birthdays, including those of new brothers and sisters are enjoyed and celebrated with singing and the lighting and blowing out of candles.

Equally, if absolutely appropriate, sad times such as illness and loss are shared to offer comfort and support and to provide the opportunity for individuals to talk through and try to understand such times and events.

IN CONCLUSION

Staff and governors are proud of the school's Christian foundation and its long association with St James' Church, Ashurst and take seriously the trust placed upon them for the spiritual development of all pupils.

The influence on the development of pupils' own values and attitudes to life, exerted by the example of love and respect amongst the whole school community in its dealing with each other, is profound. Pupils learn so much from observing others and absorbing what is happening around them.

The school's *evaluation* of how successfully it nurtures and promotes the *spiritual development* of individual pupils and how effectively collective worship impacts on the *spiritual growth* of individual pupils is *assessed* in the written and spoken comments on all aspects of school life of parents and visitors.

ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship in the school is *coordinated* by Headteacher, Mrs Williams. There is a two-year plan of *themes for assemblies* and more detailed planning of the content of weekly assemblies.

THEMES/PROGRAMME 2015 - 2019 (4 YRS) 2 X 2 YR CYCLE

AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 1	Yr 2
FRESH START	NEW LIFE	DECISIONS	RESOLUTIONS	BEAUTY	ART
← HAR	VEST→	MF MUSLIMS RAMA	/ISLAM DAN	MF SIKH BASA	ISM LKI
FRIENDS	NEIGHBOURS	THE BEST OF:	BUILDINGS	OPPOSITES	WHAT IS IMPORANT?
MF HINDU/ DIW	SIKHISM ALI	OW GROWTH	OW CHANGE		
HQ	HQ	HQ	HQ	HQ	HQ
JOURNEYS	FAMILIES	← LE	NT →	CHOICES	GUIDANCE
MF JUD HAN	AISM NAKH	NATURE	SEASONS	HQ	HQ
CELEBRATION	GIFTS	COLOUR	LIGHT	SERVICE	SAYING GOODBYE
HQ	HQ			HQ	HQ
*← CHRIST	MAS →	*EAS RESURR	TER ECTION	FAITH	BELIEFS

HQ = Human Qualities & Attributes:

Wisdom	Determination
Understanding	Forgiveness
Respect	Patience
Trust	Reliability
Honesty	Unselfishness
Courage	Consideration
Perseverance	Giving

OW=Our World Pentecost

Compassion	Growth & Change	OT
Leadership	Art	Stories
Inspiration	Beauty	Parables
Nature		
Seasons		
Buildings		

MF= Multi Faith

* Mrs Croft/Laity

Bible Stories - RE

MRS WILLIAMS' ASSEMBLY

DATE:

TITLE:

FOCUS:

MUSIC:

HYMN/S:

AIM/S, CONCEPT/S:

STORY/THEME/MESSAGE:

FOLLOW UP:

PRAYER/S:

SOURCE/S:

MRS WILLIAMS' ASSEMBLY

DATE:

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PRAYER/S:

SOURCE/S: