



St Alphege C of E Infant and Nursery School



Worship Policy

Jesus said' 'Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

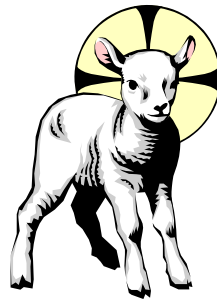
Matthew 19 v 14

WORSHIP AND THE LAW

Arrangements for Worship in church schools are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the head teacher.

As a church school the governors and head teacher have to ensure that the main legal requirements are fulfilled:-

- To provide an act of worship for all pupils every day
- To ensure that Worship is in accordance with the trust deed of the school



'Everyone matters to God'

'Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs, to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'

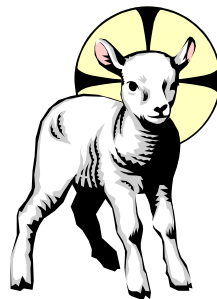
Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (para 50)

ANGLICAN HERITAGE

In all Anglican schools, worship should reflect some of the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship.

The following are elements of the Anglican heritage, which are regularly drawn upon for use in worship at St Alphege CE Infant School.

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection)
- Observing the cycle of the Christian year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. This, with holy days, provides the framework for a changing pattern of school worship
- Learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages
- Providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence (reflection) within the context of Christian worship
- Experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion (e.g. through the use of a range of visitors invited in to lead worship)
- Sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome we offer to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs



ASPIRATIONS

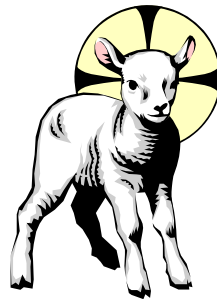
At St Alphege CE Infant School Worship is inclusive. Our pupils represent a variety of families some who:-

- Go to church regularly
- Have no such experiences beyond school
- Belong to and worship in the context of another faith

Worship in our school is *collective* as opposed to *corporate*. We need to remember that, no matter how valuable the worship, we are not a group sharing one faith who have chosen to gather for the act of worship, and so the organisation and language of our Worship allows for different levels of response. We have a Worship committee who meet regularly to discuss Worship and RE at our Infant school

Our Worship does include material from other faiths other than Christianity. Major festivals of other faiths (Diwali, Passover, Chinese New Year*) are marked and learning about them is also part of the general religious and cultural education of our pupils. It is also a way of developing a growing understanding of members of other faiths within our school community.

**The inclusion of such experiences does not mean that the worship itself becomes Hindu or Buddhist worship.*



POLICY DOCUMENT FOR WORSHIP 2020

In keeping with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, a daily collective act of worship is held which is 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character'. The Worship is held each day and all pupils participate, although parents are informed of their right of withdrawal.

The School worships together three times each week on the School premises and once a week in St. Alphege Church, when our worship is led by a member of the clergy or the Children's Ministry Team. On Fridays each discrete Key Stage celebrates achievement; KS1 in the morning and FKS in the afternoon. Parents are invited in to witness 'Celebration Worship' once each half term and are always welcome to join us for our weekly Church Worship. In addition, at the end of every Half Term, a Eucharist is held in church for parents, friends and members of the congregation. The children play an active part in the service in writing prayers and intercessions, also providing musical accompaniment, both vocal and instrumental and dance, in addition to writing poems and scripts for dramatic presentations. The theme of the Eucharist reflects the Church Year, consolidating the children's knowledge of the main festivals e.g. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost.

The annual Nativity Plays are well attended by parents and members of the local community. We actively seek to involve elderly residents in sheltered housing and those in local residential homes in our worship, where possible.

As mentioned earlier, parents do have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and worship but, as this is a Church School, it is expected that all pupils will attend and play an active part, supported by their parents.

The School is indebted to the local clergy for their contribution to the life of the School and to those who enhance our services through use of screens, puppets and 'Open The Book'.



PHILOSOPHY

Worship is at the heart of the School and takes place daily, often providing the 'spring-board' to discuss issues, which may be pertinent. In assembly we seek to bring the children to a true sense of worship.

We aim to develop in children:

- An awareness of God and His love as revealed in Jesus Christ
- God - the creator of the world
- The importance of taking part in the worship of God
- An understanding of the value of talking to God in prayer
- An understanding of man's interdependence
- An acknowledgement of the value of each individual
- An awareness of the difference between right and wrong
- An ability to reflect upon their experience of life
- An interest in seeking for explanations
- A respect for the beliefs of others
- An understanding of the need to think of others before ourselves
- The need to ask for, and to receive, forgiveness



A 'Values-led' Curriculum

After consultation with staff, Governors, parents and children the school has a revised set of values. These support the planned delivery of Worship.

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Federation Service Theme	Welcome Service (Blessings for congregation, blessings for class candles.)	Service of Light and Thanksgiving	Epiphany	Sacrifice	Feast day - St Alphege	Looking forward, looking back
Value for half term	Cooperation	Love	Valuing Difference	Forgiveness	Responsibility	Honesty
Bible links	Philippians 2.1-4	Mark 12.29-31 1 Corinthians 13.4-7	1 Corinthians 12.14-18	Matthew 18.21-22 Ephesians 4.31-32 Luke 11.1-4	Matthew 25.14-29	Luke 8.14-15 Titus 1.1-2

PLANNING AND DELIVERY

Using the six core values our Worship Scheme of Work is planned by the Deputy Headteacher, in conjunction with key staff, including the clergy and others who deliver worship. Worship throughout the school is led by a range of teaching staff including the Headteacher, Deputy Head and supported by the Leadership Team and any other teacher keen to contribute. The monthly worship plans are distributed prior to the start of the month and opportunities to support our Value of the half term are built into other significant aspects of school life.

The children visit the Parish Church each week for worship, and parents are welcome to attend these acts of worship. In addition, twice a term the Infant and Junior school attend St. Alphege Church together for services. (See table above)

Worship is varied in both content and style of delivery. The children enjoy singing hymns, which they learn by heart. Quiet, reflective music is played as the children file into the school hall, this sets the atmosphere at the beginning of each act of worship, encouraging each individual to listen. The Music Subject Lead selects appropriate music and publishes our Music of the Month via the school newsletter. Worship is varied and may include visiting speakers, DVD clips, children's presentation or drama. Most importantly the children are taught about the power of prayer and are encouraged to think about what they hear and say, to 'own' their prayers.

Religious artefacts are used, and a wide range of resources is available in the R.E./ worship resource area – including slides, pictures and photographs. A wide range of books, Bibles, prayer books, stories from other faiths and stories with a meaning are available in school.

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head teacher should be approached.

January 2020