



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2024 - 2026

Date: September 2024

Due for Review: September 2026

Purpose

The 1988 Reform Act states that the daily act of collective worship should be part of a balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of pupils and should be wholly or mainly of a broad Christian nature.

This policy outlines our approach to worship as a central aspect of school life and its links to our Values and Distinctively Christian School Ethos.

Aims of Worship at Ottershaw c of E Schools

- To present Christian beliefs in a lively and inspirational way
- To provide a forum for collective response and time for collective reflection
- To develop a feeling of belonging and sense of identity
- To celebrate what is good and worthwhile in the school and wider world
- To share religious stories and the language associated with worship as an educational experience

Planning and Format

Termly themes for worship across the two schools are planned by the Vicar and Senior Leadership Team using supporting resources from the Diocese of Guildford and Picture News.

Each term the themes reflect the Christian Calendar, our School Values and wider national and international themes.

Class Worship becomes increasingly child-led as the children move to the Junior School but is also supported by the weekly 'Picture News' resources (which present opportunities to explore big questions surrounding current issues) and reflective activities suggested by the Diocese in response to the weekly collective worship theme.

Within worship our methods are child centred, but reflect the Anglican Liturgy by having a format that is recognisable and repeated. Our rituals involve welcoming the children to worship by lighting a candle and/or using the words 'Peace be with you' to which the response is 'and also with you' and end with 'we leave with Jesus' love in our hearts' to which the response is 'ready to live life in all its fullness'. We use hymns and shared prayers such as our School Prayer and the Lord's Prayer to create a collective sense of worship.

Worship at Ottershaw is inviting and inclusive and offers children a broad range of experiences (both formal and informal) to ensure they are invited to engage in a mixed diet of worship experiences during their school lives.

Timetable

Infant School

Day	Lead Person and Time
Monday	Headteacher or Deputy 10.15 – 10.30am
Tuesday	Class Teachers (in a rota) 10.15 – 10.30am
Wednesday	Vicar and supporting clergy (every other week) or Teachers on a rota 8.50 – 9.05am
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Celebration Assembly with Headteacher or Deputy 1.05 – 1.25pm

Junior School

Day	Lead Person and Time
Monday	Headteacher or Deputy 8.40 – 8.55am
Tuesday	Class Worship
Wednesday	Vicar and supporting clergy (every other week) or teachers on a rota 8.40 – 8.55am
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Celebration Assembly with Headteacher or Deputy 1.05 – 1.25pm

We take the children to church every term for Worship. In the autumn Term we celebrate Christmas in church and in the Spring Term we celebrate Easter.

Because the church has a small capacity our schools have to visit separately. Year 4 lead our Harvest Service, Year 6 lead our Christmas Service and Year 5 lead our Easter Services.

Our Year 6 children visit Guildford Cathedral every summer for the annual Leavers' Service.

Right to Withdraw

We expect all children and teaching staff to be present during our daily acts of worship, apart from in exceptional circumstances. Whilst we recognise that parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from worship, we would always want to discuss this first to help overcome misconceptions.