Cinnamon Brow C of E Primary School

'For I know the plans I have for you… Plans to give you hope and a future.'

Jeremiah 29:11

[Collective Worship Policy]

(Whole School Policy)

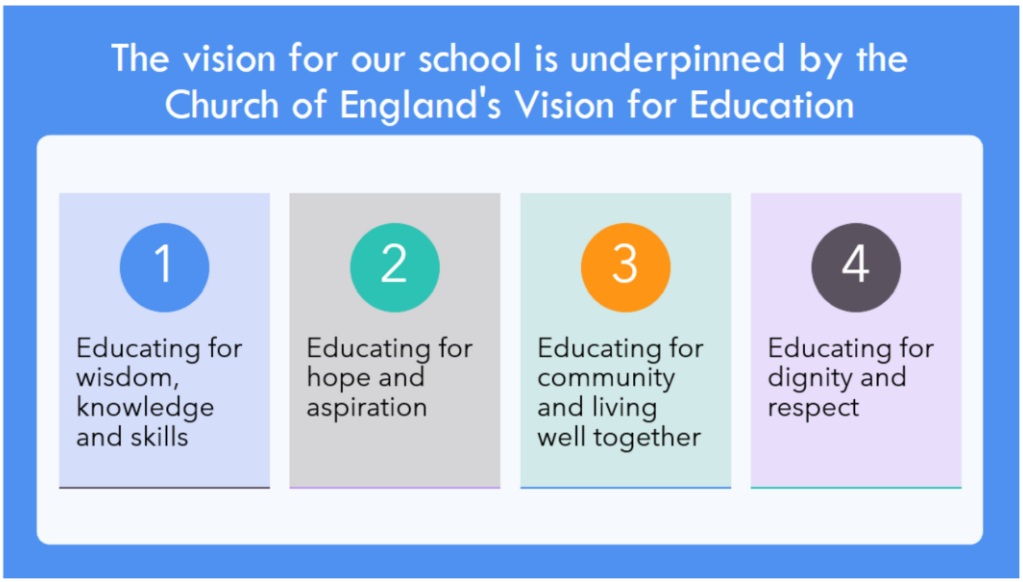
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School Vision



Through the prophet, Jeremiah, God spoke to the Israelites when they were in a time of desperation as captives. This was not a promise of immediate rescue from their plight but God's hope of a future to see them through. The Israelites were encouraged to settle in the city that they now found themselves in. This verse is not an assurance to immediately rescue us from hardship or suffering, but rather a promise that God has a plan for our lives and regardless of our current situation, He can work through it to prosper us and give us a hope and a future.

God gave the Israelites a hope that their future would be bright. This is our aim for our school community: children, parents, governors, staff and local community. By providing an excellent well-rounded education, we will give our pupils and their families hope for their future, by enabling them to flourish.



1. INTRODUCTION

Cinnamon Brow is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. We strongly believe that worship is central to achieving our vision for a hope and a future for our children.

In Cinnamon Brow, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and the event that begins the day. It is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.[1]

[1] The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian the Common Good.* (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This approach seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

The law requires that there be a daily act of worship which should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character' [Ed. Ref. Act 1988] and in accordance with the school's deed. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

2. RATIONALE - INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL, AND INSPIRING

In this busy, lively primary school, it is important to set aside time for the children to come together in a feeling of belonging and community to reflect on ideas surrounding their lives. It is central to developing our ethos as a Christian community and an opportunity to celebrate our school's Church Values.

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their

families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our school may come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, joining and watching.
Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are always only invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship. The school tries to connect the music and song with the theme. Music used reflecst the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.
Care is taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymnody and music will be drawn upon. In addition, the modern music and song from ISing Pop is incorporated as we look to enrich the spiritual life of Cinnamon Brow CE Primary School.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in our Church school to be inspirational. Worship is formational and transformational: it enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. Because of inspirational collective worship, we desire that children are inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. We want worship to encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our school and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. This and how to exercise this option is explained below.

3. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS & ENTITLEMENT

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is very distinct to religious education. In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Leadership Team and in accordance with the school's deeds.

Collective Worship is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of daily school life and the attendance at and participation in acts of worship bring richness of experience; contribute to the development of knowledge and understanding of their faith and role in God's plan; and provide happiness for all pupils. The Governor's recognise that in line with the Education Act of 1998, Parents & Guardians can choose to withdraw their children from acts of worship.

4. THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christianity through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist .
c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

- The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:
- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements, which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Collective worship is planned by senior leaders within school in conjunction with members of our local church. The Christian Ethos group are involved in providing their voice towards worship, which supports the development of worship. In addition, worship is planned for and delivered by external visitors (e.g. Open the Book and members of the clergy from our local church) in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using a scheme of work including Values for Life, Roots & Fruits, Picture News and I SingPop, which are all adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies (see website). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children, as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet each day for worship in different contexts:

	Engagement	Focus	Leader

Monday	Whole School	Christian Values Year 1 – Oscar out of the Box	Headteacher/ Deputy Head
Tuesday	Whole School	Christian Values	Visitor / Head / Deputy
Wednesday	Class Based	Picture News A current news article to motive, inspire and ask questions KS1 Stay & Praise Worship Community	Teacher/Pupils Rev'd Simon
Thursday	Class Based	I Sing Pop – Christian value told through a Bible story and linked to worship (EYFS worship will involve classes coming together using Jack in the Box	Teacher
Friday	Whole School	Celebration	SLT

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our worship consists of 3 stages:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- Engage – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- Respond – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)

6. EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS

All pupils have the opportunity to share in acts of worship. As part of their duties as member of the Christian Ethos pupil voice group, pupils help to evaluate and lead worship. In class worship, all pupils lead worship. They work with the RE/Collective worship leaders to evaluate and develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. Older pupils support younger pupils in this process.

7. CHURCH EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Acts of worship are held in Cinnamon Brow School led by a member of the clergy. We will also visit Christ Church Padgate to celebrate events in the Christian calendar. Each celebration coincides with a festival from the ecumenical calendar, including:

- A Harvest festival at which the children contribute gifts or food for those less fortunate than themselves and we support a charity
- A Christmas Carol Service and a Christingle Service is held in the Church
- An Easter service is performed during the Easter period – there is usually a visit to Christ Church
- A service to mark Pentecost
- A Leaver's Service is held at the end of the school year at Christ Church
- A service is held each year for pupils choosing to be confirmed.

8. DEVELOPING WORSHIP

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends professional development and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

9. DEVELOPING STAFF EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE: CONFIDENCE THROUGH PROFESSIONALISM

Parents, pupils and adults are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church school context and by those who are professional in their approach to working with pupils and adults from all faiths and none. Therefore, it should be a priority to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in Church schools. To do this the school should ensure the following.

- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through local diocesan education teams and within school led.
- Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
- The governing body have robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice. Those facilitating worship have the opportunity to receive feedback and to hear the outcome of evaluation.

10. SELF-ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our governors at FBG

meetings and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury (SIAMS).

11. PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. In the first instance, when a parent/carer should share their intention to withdraw their child/ren, we would ask they contact the school office, giving the school opportunity to respond.