

St Osmund's CE Middle School

Collective Worship Policy



Introduction

"So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (msg)

Hope

Community

Respect

Love

At St Osmund's, children come first. We believe in the following:

High **hopes** for all children to achieve their full God-Given potential, feeling safe and secure in their environment to learn. We **hope** and strive for excellence across the curriculum, giving every pupil the opportunity to flourish and achieve their aspirations.

"I have come that they may have life, and life to the full." John 10:10 NIV

An overwhelming sense of belonging to our school Community: building each other up, encouraging one another and supporting one another.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." John Wesley 1703- 1791

Our students showing **respect** towards one another and God's beautiful creation by being kind, caring and compassionate in word and action.

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions in truth." 1 John 3:18 NIV

Everyone feeling valued as we show **love** to our neighbours. We know that every member of our community is a unique individual; we celebrate the diverse nature of our community and the wider world.

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

Name of School: St Osmund's CE Middle School
School's Vision: We will instil a drive for personal and community success in all our children. Learning is for life, not just for school. We will nurture respect for others and love for all humanity and also our planet. We will teach hope for the future.

Legal Framework

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church. The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has some practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high-quality acts of worship as is practically possible. To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who, after consultation with the Head of School, has appointed our School Chaplain with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

School Statement on Collective Worship

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos: It aims to demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of Hope, Community, Respect and Love.

St Osmund's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided/Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to be family and to inspire ourselves with God's vision of the world. It is attended by all students and staff. Any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. At St. Osmund's school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

"No one left out, no one left behind"

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective worship in St Osmund's CE Middle School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local Church community. Pupils will be encouraged to take on roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

Planning, Recording and Evaluation,

Specific time is set aside for this activity. We seek to mark out this special time by lighting a candle and using a liturgical greeting. This also offers specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions. Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'gathering', 'engaging', 'responding', 'sending'.

Collective worship themes are planned yearly, drawing from a wide range of resource material gathered from Diocesan resources and the wider Church, considering the major festivals of the Church's year and also linking to other festivals. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship. Collective Worship is coordinated by the School Chaplain, supported by the Senior Leadership Team. Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the School Chaplain and Governors. The School Chaplain receives feedback from the school community.

Organisation

Monday:	Theme of the Week theme introduction video Led by School Chaplain
Tuesday:	KS3 Act of Collective Worship in the Sports Hall Year 5 Act of Collective Worship in the Small Hall Year 6 Class Reflection time.
Wednesday:	KS2 Act of Collective Worship in the Sports Hall Year 7 Act of Collective Worship in the Small Hall Year 8 Class Reflection Time.
Thursday	Year 6 Act of Collective Worship in the Small Hall Year 8 Act of Collective Worship in the Sports Hall Year 5 & 7 Class Reflection time
Friday	Whole school Act of Collective Worship in the Sports Hall

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

At St. Osmund's CE Middle School we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children during Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head of School/Worship Co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Approval/review by governing body

Headteacher signed:

Date:

G. Biddle 19-12-24

Chair of Governors signed:

Date:

Nicco Costello

Date of next review:

Date:

December 1st 2025