



Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance

## RECEPTION - WORSHIP

Whether in the hall or classroom, collective worship should always have the same structure: Gather, Engage, Respond, and Send.

The law states that all registered pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship (DfE Circular 1/94 para 51).

Every pupil in Reception should begin to be introduced to a short daily act of worship from when they start school. It is only parents who can withdraw their children from collective worship.

As a school, we seek to create acts of worship that are inclusive, invitational, and inspiring, reflecting the understanding and needs of the children, the school's context, and its distinctive Christian vision.

Collective worship that is genuinely invitational will use the language of invitation to invite all those who wish to do so to engage with the act of worship. It also allows freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity,

e.g., "I invite you to join in with this prayer."

"As a school family, our Christian values guide/show us how we think about ..."

"The Bible tells many Christians / helps some Christians to know..."

In September, we provide opportunities for the children to experience whole school worship as soon as possible - once a week, gradually increasing the number of days in attendance. At first, it may be that Reception children leave worship at the end of the song.

### **1. CREATE A CLASS PATTERN FOR WORSHIP to help the children to know what to expect and recognise that worship has begun.**

- Reflect the pattern of whole school collective worship in the school hall.
- Open and close worship similarly, using the same words and preparing the space with the children for collective worship.
- Play music to indicate the gathering to worship – similar to how the children enter the hall.
- On the interactive whiteboard, display the PowerPoint slide, which they will recognise as the same as in the whole school worship.

### **2. INVOLVE THE CHILDREN IN PREPARING THE SPACE FOR CLASS WORSHIP**

- Ethos Committee children help prepare the space when the children are gathered on the carpet while the music is still playing.
- Remove the materials and artefacts from the special box or bag.
- Prepare the space: beautiful cloth or church-coloured cloth on the worship table, three candles positioned, a Bible on the table (perhaps children's Bible), and a cross.

### **3. THE BIBLE**

We ensure the children know that the stories in class worship come from the Bible by using a child-friendly version to read and share them.

Staff share in their awe and wonder. They model the language of joy and sorrow through the stories and real-life scenarios. Teachers give the children some space to consider and share their feelings, think, reflect, ask questions, and wonder within the stories.



Seeking life in all its fullness