

The right of withdrawal

At Churchill Primary School there are children whose families are members of other faiths, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be welcoming and inclusive to all in the community they serve.

Collective worship holds a special place in the life of our Church school as we have shared on school tours and induction sessions. We that families have made a specific choice of joining our school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents and carers have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent/carer may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents/carers wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to their child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school, such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent/carer will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

If a parent/Carer wishes to withdraw their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school;
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent/carer asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. *(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship)*

