



- a. Krishna: is the name of God within Hinduism and is used interchangeably with God.
- b. Collective Worship: any act of worship that is conducted collectively or as a group participating in the same activity at the same time.
- c. Worship: any activity by which children express their devotion and faith towards Krishna. This includes, but is not limited to: chanting Krishna's names quietly or in kirtan, arati, abhisheka, drama, prayer, dance and drama.
- d. Deity: the form of the Lord, which is worshipped (as distinguished from an 'idol') – see .

a.



# AVANTI FIELDS

- i. Support and celebrate the Avanti ethos, including the 6 values, which will develop a tangible school-wide community spirit and positive relationships.
- j.



AVANTI FIELDS

a.



- c. Hare Krsna maha mantra (as part of morning worship)
- d. Narasimhadev prayers (as part of morning worship)
- e. Avanti Prayers (at three points during the day – start of day, lunch, end of day)

Translations for the above do not have to be read daily but the meanings of the above prayers must be discussed in class at least once a fortnight so that correct pronunciation and understanding can be checked. Children can share different understandings of the translations and ways to connect and remember their meaning.

Festivals should be celebrated on the actual day of the religious festival unless these days fall outside of term-time, since these days we know well in advance. There are different levels of observation for the different festivals.



It is important that schools consider creative, fun and engaging ways to celebrate the festivals, for example:

Kirtan

Drama

Dramatised textual readings

Dance

Abhisheka

Special altar decorations

Cooking

Specific bhajans/songs

Yajnas

Festival specific (e.g. cart procession for Ratha-yatra)

The parents and the wider community can be invited in to participate in different festivals if the school wishes.

Assemblies will reference Collective Worship links to ensure there are recorded links to British Values. This will be documented as evidence. All schools will provide opportunities for those of different faiths and beliefs to contribute and share, thus developing respect and appreciation of others.





# AVANTI FIELDS

- Should shower on the morning of performing the worship.
- Should be dressed in washed and fresh school uniform (or traditional dress if the child and school wishes).
- Must have completed some training on deity worship, including how to offer the arati, the different mantras needed for the worship, cleanliness and personal hygiene requirements prior to going on the altar.
- Both girls and boys should be encouraged to participate.
- Each article can be offered 7 times around each deity (and Srila Prabhupada) to simplify worship for the children.
- If the child wishes, they can help prepare the fruit offering (under supervision of an adult priest) and offer it, to the Lord, on the altar.
- If the child wishes, they can also help to prepare the arati tray prior to the beginning of the ceremony on their day of worship. If the child does not wish to, then the fruit offering and arati tray should be prepared by the supervising adult.
- To ensure an appropriate level of gravity, only children from year 5 and above should be allowed.

## Daily:

- Wiping of altar tables.
- Cleaning of any paraphernalia used.
- Removing all fresh flowers from the shrine at the end of each day.
- Cleaning any additional areas that may need attention as and when necessary.
- Sweeping and mopping the floor.

## Weekly (typically by those dressing the deity):

- Cleaning the shrine thoroughly including areas that may not have been cleaned during the week.

## Monthly (typically by those dressing the deity):

- Wiping the domes of the shrine.
- Plus weekly and daily items and areas.
  
- A detailed daily schedule should be in place for taking care of the deities. This should be agreed with the Trust and should include details of arati formats, mantras being used, worship protocols etc., none of which should contradict what is in this document.
- There should be a daily offering of arati at a time agreed with the school.
- There should be a daily offering of food.
- The deities should be woken and put to rest on a daily basis according to an agreed schedule and format.



## AVANTI FIELDS

- If the deities are woken on any day when the school may be closed, arati and a food offering must also take place.
- The above can be exceeded (e.g. two offerings of food per day) but a new minimum standard should not be set.
  
- There should be a school-appointed person who has overall responsibility for the deities and shrine care. This person may often be a member of the kitchen team. This person will also report to the Trust's lead for deity and shrine standards.
- The shrine should be open as much of the school day as possible. This includes during lunch hours.
- There are no strict times for when the shrine has to be open or closed.
- The shrine hall can be decorated by the work of the children.
- Outstanding pieces of work from students can be used to decorate the area around the shrine as a reward for their efforts.
- Restrictions for ladies during their monthly menstrual cycle pertains to shrine access, shrine worship and deity dressing. It does *not* pertain to *darshan* (viewing the deities).
- Schools can raise donations to help towards the costs for maintaining the deities. Each school will need to decide if they will use school funds towards shrine expenses.
  
- The shrine should have the deities of Gaura-Nitai (as supplied by the Trust) and a small photo of Srila Prabhupada.
- Other photos can, but do not have to include other Vishnu avatars (Rama, Narasimha etc.) and other Gaudiya-Vaishnava acaryas. No other photos or deities should be placed inside the shrine.
- Children to be encouraged to offer worship and articles such as flowers, fan and ringing the bell every morning before lessons begin, accompanied by singing. Care must obviously be taken if offering items such as incense.
- All classes should have a 5-10 minute singing of Hare Krishna with instruments or just hand cymbals at some time during the day, outside of collective worship.
- Children are allowed to dress the deity with care and supervision.
- The altar can be decorated by the work of the children to encourage awareness of Lord Krishna in their classrooms and encourage interaction with the deities.
- If the deities are moved from the altar this must be done with due reverence and care and under adult supervision.
- There are no other rules around conditions for the worship which takes place at the classroom shrine.