

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

Vision Statement

"You are precious and honoured in God's sight."

Isaiah 43:4

At Holy Trinity we believe that all people are precious and honoured in God's sight. From this belief comes a desire for all in our care and in our partnerships to experience life in all its fullness, as promised by Jesus.

We embrace the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of our young people.

All that we do is underpinned by the modelling and promotion of six core values. These are: **Peace, Hope, Friendship, Respect, Honesty and Forgiveness.**

We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigor, but sets them in a wider framework.

Worship is...

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.***

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Foundation of Holy Trinity School

Holy Trinity School was founded by the Church of England in 1843 to “promote the education of the poor in the principles of the Church of England and Wales”. It was the aim of the Church to provide Education for all, irrespective of wealth or privilege and to enable the church to share its faith and traditions.

Voluntary Controlled Status

The School has now passed into the Control of the Local Education Authority who delegate the DfES funding for the school. In this respect the school is subject to the same National and Local requirements as maintained schools. This includes Religious Education which must be taught in accordance with the LA agreed syllabus.

However, the Trust Deed of the School ensures that it retains its Church Foundation. This is reflected in the Policy for Collective Worship and in the relationship the school has with the local Parish Church (Holy Trinity) and with the broader Anglican Church.

Holy Trinity School enjoys a strong relationship with Holy Trinity Church. Three members of Holy Trinity’s congregation sit on the Governing Body as Foundation Governors. The vicar plays an important role in the school.

The Collective Worship that takes place in the school is still the responsibility of the Governing Body and must reflect the Christian Foundation of the School. However, the School needs to be sensitive to the fact that the majority of the children in the school come from a variety of faith traditions.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

*‘.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship’,*

And, that this should be,

‘.....mainly of a broadly Christian character’

Role of Collective Worship within our school Vision

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Holy Trinity C of E Primary School and is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

As a Voluntary Controlled school, Holy Trinity C of E Primary will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, **the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision**. Here at Holy Trinity C of E Primary, this inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- 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 worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- 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.
- 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.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Intent of worship

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- understand the big story of the Bible and its theological themes
- explore the school's Christian values, and how they are rooted in the Bible, and to deepen pupils understanding of how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which worship of God is both normal and natural

- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition by observing how Eucharist is celebrated in our local church and in another church with a differing tradition, and being invited to join in for a blessing as appropriate
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Implementation of Collective Worship

Collective worship needs to be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of pupils
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- In sympathy with the cultures and beliefs represented in the School Community

At different times worship will be organised for the whole school, for phases or for classes. The following timetable provides a framework but may be subject to alteration from time to time. There will be one weekly assembly for each phase for celebrating good work, behaviour and effort.

Day	KS1	KS2
Monday	Whole school Collective Worship led by Neil Robbie (vicar) or Helen Morrow (Children's worker)	
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship	
Wednesday	Whole school Collective Worship led by headteacher or Collective Worship coordinator	
Thursday	Whole school Collective Worship (hymn singing) led by SLT	
Friday	Praise assembly	Praise assembly

The Collective Worship coordinator will plan collective worship for each half term. We are currently alternating our half terms between looking closely at one of our school Christian values, and working through a program entitled 'The Story of the Bible' devised by our Collective Worship co-ordinator. This supports and enhances the Understanding Christianity resource that is being used to deliver the Christianity element of our RE in class. As we work through 'The Story of the Bible' we look at how our school values are linked to the Biblical narrative. As well as 'The Story of the Bible', other resources are used to plan and lead Collective Worship, including 'Roots and Fruits' published by imaginor, 'Thoughts to make your heart sing' by Sally Lloyd Jones, and internet resources such as <https://www.assemblies.org.uk/> and <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/> .

All acts of Collective Worship, including hymn practice and praise assembly should include prayer (traditional, contemporary or spontaneous), reflection and songs or music from a variety of cultures. In addition, leaders of Collective Worship are encouraged to use the following elements to maintain the engagement, interest and variety of Collective Worship:

- Readings and stories
- Interaction such as paired discussions, sound effects for a story, demonstrations from the front
- Special clothing, artefacts
- Dance and drama
- Use of senses
- Artistic imagery

The following attitudes should be developed:

- Sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- Feelings of belonging
- Respect for others irrespective of gender, social, racial or cultural differences
- Sense of pride
- Sense of empathy
- Thankfulness
- Sense of shared sadness or loss
- Sense of stillness in the midst of business

Creating a Sense of Occasion

Children should sense that Collective Worship is a special time to be quiet and reflect. It is important that they enter the hall quietly. Music can be used to encourage a mood of quiet anticipation. At times a visual symbol can be used such as a candle, flowers or a picture.

The role of the Worship Council

The worship council are chosen based on an application for the role to the worship coordinator. Their role in Collective Worship is as follows:

- Planning and leading CW once a term based on what they have learned from previous CW themes, or what they themselves choose to share with the school
- Setting out the worship table, chairs and hall and operating the projector during Collective Worship
- Monitoring Collective Worship and feeding back to the worship coordinator
- Choosing and reading prayers
- Leading the call and response for worship
- Other roles as appropriate and determined by worship coordinator and/ or leader of Collective Worship

Hymns and Songs

Children should be encouraged to think about the meaning of hymns and songs and to understand how music can be used to convey a mood or feeling e.g. joy, thankfulness, sadness, reflection, contemplation, aspiration.

Readings and Stories

A variety of material should be used – anecdotal stories to illustrate a theme or teaching of Jesus, stories from the Bible, of the lives of Christians and stories from other traditions and sources

Prayer

A variety of written and extemporary prayers should be used. At times children should be involved in reading their own or others' prayers, and given opportunity for spontaneous prayers based on what has been discussed, taught or learned in Collective Worship. Prayer should always be invitational, with words such as 'please prepare yourself for prayer' and 'you can join in with this prayer if you want to by saying Amen at the end' are used.

Reflection

In most Collective Worship, children should be given opportunity to reflect in silence.

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to the worship coordinator, who does this in consultation with the vicar and children's worker at Holy Trinity Church, and with the help of the worship council. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought including pupils, (through pupil voice

conferencing), parents, teachers and governors. A monitoring week is held once a year to monitor Collective Worship officially over a week by the worship coordinator. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Approved and signed off by

Headteacher/Principal.....
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Chair of
Governors.....
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