



Holy Trinity  
Church of England  
Primary School

# Collective Worship

Review Cycle: Annually

Reviewed by Senior Leadership Team

Approved by Full Governing Body: March 2022

### **Our School Vision**

*Living and learning together as part of the family of God; we seek to inspire every person to be deeply rooted in the values of the Christian faith and to experience being connected in a loving community – to grow, flourish and bear much fruit.*



*(inspired by John, Chapter 15:5)*

### **Our School Values**

**Compassion ~ Forgiveness ~ Friendship ~ Koinonia ~ Perseverance ~ Thankfulness ~ Wisdom**

At Holy Trinity our school values enable us to live out our school vision. They help us to be rooted in God, to live well as a community and enable us to flourish and bear much fruit in our learning and in our behaviour. Our school values form the basis of pattern of collective worship and we encourage everyone in the community to demonstrate and live out our vision.

### **Aims and Purpose**

We believe that the heart of Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils and staff and others such as governors and parents, to come together, to sing and pray, to share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God. It takes us beyond ourselves towards an encounter with the living God; this can be an exciting time for all of us.

Our central aims for Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect upon and give honour to God.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide pupils with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of Christian worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To share with pupils the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and thereby encourage them to explore and reflect on their own beliefs and understanding of God.
- To allow pupils to become familiar with a variety of worship in the Anglican tradition, according to their developmental stage.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local churches.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community and to respect the integrity of all individuals as being made 'in the image of God'.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as compassion, forgiveness, friendship, koinonia, perseverance, thankfulness and wisdom.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- To help pupils develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.

## **Collective Worship**

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion where the purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together to participate. We expect everyone to take an active part in the Collective Worship. Governors are welcome to join all acts of Collective Worship. We base our Collective Worship on the teachings of the Bible and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. When appropriate we hold collective worships that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in school and in the wider community.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

At Holy Trinity Church of England School we hold daily active worship. This may be as a whole school, or in Key Stages, year groups or as individual classes. Acts of Collective Worship are held as indicated in the table (Appendix 1).

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of peaceful reflection which we regard as a special time when children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Staff are expected to prepare the children for a time of worship through promotion of a calm, composed atmosphere in the classroom or the hall before they participate in worship. They should be quiet and thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings, and participate fully in prayers and hymns/songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music at the beginning of Collective Worship as the children are arriving and by using candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children (For guidelines for leading Collective Worship see Appendix 2).

As well as staff conducting collective worship the clergy of Holy Trinity Parish Church regularly lead our school assemblies. Clergy of local churches are also invited to lead worship as well as other religious leaders where appropriate. Children are given the opportunity to participate in and/or plan acts of worship themselves.

There are weekly themes for acts of worship which are built around the Schools Vision and values. These reflect the Christian faith and lifestyles as well as reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. There is a plan for each term which shows the weekly themes and who will be leading the acts of worship each day. Our values are celebrated through our Trinity Points / Certificates and Star Learners of the Week.

Friday acts of worship reflect the Bible text of the week and the achievements of our children. Each week class teachers select one (occasionally more) children from their class to receive praise for specific achievements relating to our School Vision and Values. Children are also encouraged to bring certificates, cups, shields, etc. awarded in out of school activities to share their achievements with their school family. This plays an important role in promoting the ethos of Holy Trinity, which is that all children grow, flourish and bear fruit and that their successes can inspire others to achieve.

Once each half term, Key Stage 2 children celebrate Communion and lead a significant service, ie. The Easter Service. These services are led by the clergy of Holy Trinity Church and a number of Key Stage 2 children, including the RE Ambassadors, and involved through the writing/reading of prayers, serving or reading the lesson. Parents, Governors and parishioners of Holy Trinity Church are encouraged to join these services to promote the home/school/church links.

At the end of each school term a service is held at Holy Trinity Church for all children from Reception to Year 6. Members of the school community are encouraged to contribute in a variety of ways, eg. writing and reading prayers, playing instruments, and reading appropriate passages from the Bible or other suitable texts, drama sketches, etc.

### **Godly Play**

We believe that nurturing children's spirituality is an integral part of our school vision and a way that we can ensure that all children truly flourish. We use Godly Play on a fortnightly basis in addition to our planned weekly pattern of worship. The children gather in groups of 15 to listen to stories from The Bible using a kinaesthetic approach. It invites listeners into stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience. Godly Play uses wondering questions and open-ended response time. It aims to develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rites and is a way of encouraging children to think about 'Big Questions' in a safe environment.

We are fortunate to have a Godly Play room which contains a number of resources that the Godly Play storyteller uses to tell stories. Part of the room is not carpeted and this allows children to use creative materials to 'wonder' about the story.

### **Class Prayer Area**

Each class has a Prayer Area. We encourage children to use the prayer area as somewhere to reflect on the vision and values of the school. Questions are used to evoke discussion and thought and are updated half termly. Prayer boxes are placed in this area for any child to place their prayers in which are then collected to be used in our Friday worship and with our Parent Prayer Group. Staff are encouraged to keep prayer tables attractive and tidy and the emphasis is on quality and appropriateness of the artefacts and pictures. Quality rather than quantity is emphasized as often the simplest picture or artefact can convey a powerful message.

### **Resources**

There are a wide variety of resources available to help with planning acts of worship. In addition, the following websites have material suitable for use: [www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk) and [www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk).

### **Right of withdrawal**

All staff and children are expected to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent may request permission for their child to be excused from attending daily worship and alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This follows the 1988 Education Act and is restated in the 1996 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of the SIAMS Vision working party to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. On a half termly, basis the views of the children are discussed and collected by the RE Ambassadors. These are recorded and fed back to Governors each year. Where appropriate, practical suggestions from the children are put into place to improve and develop this aspect of school life.

## Collective Worship Policy - APPENDIX 1

### Weekly organisation of Collective Worship

<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>ORGANISED BY</b>
Monday	13:15	EY/KS1 Worship KS2 Worship	Oak Classroom School Hall	Mrs Roscoe Mrs Baynes
Tuesday	13:15	Whole School Worship	School Hall	Mrs Rodenas
Wednesday	13:15	EY/KS1 Worship KS2 Worship	Oak Classroom School Hall	Clare Rodenas Mair Henton
Thursday	13:15	EY/KS1 Worship KS2 Worship (in Church on weekly rotation)	HT Church / School Hall (weekly rotation)	HT Church / Mrs Henton (weekly rotation)
Friday	13:15	Reflections from the week and celebrations – Whole School	School Hall	Clare Rodenas

## Collective Worship Policy - APPENDIX 2

### Guidelines for leading Collective Worship

- ✚ The content of Collective Worship should be planned to emphasise the weekly theme and its link with Christianity and the Christian value or if in class, it should be supporting the value of the week, or looking at the 'Bigger Picture' through current events or issues relative to the local community, supporting SMSC.
- ✚ Children should be involved wherever possible, either directly in some form of activity, through their responses to ideas presented during worship or by reading prayers.
- ✚ A sense of reverence is vital to all acts of worship. Children should enter and leave the hall quietly.
- ✚ All whole school acts of Collective Worship should begin with 'Peace be with you' the response being 'and also with you'.
- ✚ A candle should be lit at the beginning of collective worship and remain alight throughout, to remind everyone that Jesus is the Light of our World, and to focus the children's attention.
- ✚ A prayer and time for silent reflection should end the main part of Collective Worship.
- ✚ An appropriate hymn or song should be sung at some point during Collective Worship.