



Collective Worship Policy

Ratified by Governing Body - Summer 2019

Date of next review - Summer 2020

At Thorpe Church of England Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship plays a significant part in the distinctiveness of our school, as a church school. We therefore aim to provide opportunities children to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, positive caring attitude towards other people and understanding of their social and cultural traditions. Also, with an appreciation of the diversity and richness of God's creation around.

1. Rationale

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Members of the school assemble together and participate in an act of collective worship. We encourage everyone to take an active part in worship at their own level.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our worship times on teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship times in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Collective Worship is not 'assembly'. If the school needs to assemble all together for reasons other than worship, it would be referred to as an assembly but not as collective worship.

2. Aims and Purpose

- ✓ to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- ✓ to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues within a Christian framework;
- ✓ to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- ✓ to encourage reflection, participation and response;
- ✓ to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- ✓ to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- ✓ to encourage a sense of awe and wonder;
- ✓ to teach children how to worship;
- ✓ to encourage children to pray and see the value of prayer;
- ✓ to celebrate God's creation.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold an act of collective worship in our school every day at 10.30am.

We encourage children and adults to worship in a variety of ways: dance, singing, praise and prayer. We expect everyone to be sensitive to each other and to the person leading worship. Children know there are times when everyone is quiet and reflective. We include times of open prayer. We use candles, bible texts, pictures and music to create an atmosphere conducive to worship. We also have an Interactive White Board available.

The Headteacher and other members of staff lead worship times on a rota, but sometimes local clergy or other local Christians lead them.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, spiritual and moral issues, festivals and events of the Christian calendar, or sometimes the topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Worship times are planned by the Headteacher half-termly and are displayed in the staffroom.

Our worship times reflect the achievements and learning of the children as part of a celebration of God's amazing creation. Worship time offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Worship plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

To celebrate Christian festivals we go to St Mary's Church, Thorpe to worship and often invite parents to join us.

Each class has a Worship Station for the children to use throughout the day. A prayer board is also available in the corridor for children and visitors to write prayers that are shared with the congregation at St Mary's and during collective worship. There are also times during the day when the children gather together to worship in the classroom. Please refer to the RE Policy.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We offer all parents the opportunity to discuss worship plans if this helps them make an informed decision about withdrawal. Any request for withdrawal must be made in writing. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

SEN, Gifted and Talented, Vulnerable Groups

At our school we encourage all children, whatever their ability and individual needs to attend collective worship. We endeavour to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

Health and Safety

Acts of Collective Worship follow the SCC guidelines for H&S and the safeguarding of all pupils using risk assessments.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.