



Our Christian faith emphasises the value and worth of every individual with their own distinctive character, gifts and abilities.

Christ's command to 'Love one another' calls us to respect and help other people, this provides the foundation for our school and all we aim to achieve.

Collective Worship Policy

Aims

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos contained within the vision and values statement.

Our Vision

Jesus said...

³⁴ "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Rooted in our Christian ethos we will provide the finest education, develop enduring values and instil ambitious life aspirations

Our Aims and Values

Our vision is underpinned by our belief in key aims and values which we have for all our children:

Spiritual and personal well-being and fulfilment

Respect for others and ourselves

Justice and global citizenship

The courage to strive for excellence and seek high aspirations in all we do

This encompasses the Christian values of love, friendship, sharing, forgiveness, courage and peace, selected by the school community as those values which are at the heart of all we do.

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Holy Trinity is planned to:

- be inspirational, inclusive and invitational. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners understand Anglican and other Christian traditions and festivals found in the UK and worldwide



- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their spiritual journey with an understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing learners with something more than the obvious; something to wonder at and something to respond to
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local, national and international community
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

Collective Worship is an experience which that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. Collective Worship is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of members of the school. It is regarded as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. They are asked to be quiet and thoughtful to enable all to listen to engage and to participate in prayer and song.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate
- sharing and experiencing differences
- developing a culture of learning
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- taking a break from the busyness of life in stillness and quiet
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- exploring and evaluating individual beliefs
- exploring feelings and emotions
- reflecting on human existence
- learning how to respond appropriately
- developing inner awareness
- reinforcing positive attitudes
- respecting individuality and celebrating diversity
- appreciating of God given gifts and talents of the school community

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of Collective Worship for registered pupils. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child and may request permission to do so, as is explained in the school prospectus.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship and the Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

All acts of collective worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. Parents are aware that the school is a church school and, as such, Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. The Governing Body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear on their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to staff on their appointment.



Planning a Collective Worship Programme

Specific time is set aside for planning acts of Collective Worship and the importance of marking out the act from other assembly activities is recognised.

The time is made special through actions which might include lighting a candle, allowing time for the children to reflect quietly, offering a prayer or worshiping through song.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought and pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of this aspect of school life.

Organisation of Collective Worship

The whole school meets for Collective Worship four times a week. On the one day when the whole school does not come together, collective worship takes place in classrooms led by class teachers. On these occasions, worship can be made specifically age appropriate. Restrictions around COVID-19 have meant a change to how collective worship is delivered. See also Appendix 1. The current pattern is:

Monday	Class Collective Worship
Tuesday	Whole School Collective Worship led by members of the clergy
Wednesday at 1:15pm	Whole School Collective Worship
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship delivered via Zoom
Friday at 2:45pm	Whole School Collective Worship to include a celebration of 'Stars of the Week' and sporting achievements. Other awards may be presented.

Thursday's whole school collective worship is delivered via Zoom to allow the children the opportunity to see into the classrooms of others and class Collective Worship sessions are posted on Google Classroom by the Head Teacher at the start of a week for class teachers to use. These always follow a theme and include time for reflection and prayer.

Visitors are welcomed to acts of Collective Worship which are held mainly in school, and, at least once a term the children prepare and contribute to a service in Holy Trinity Church to which parents and friends of the school are invited. Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship and the need to avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt particular religious or non-religious beliefs are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Occasionally, pupils are invited to contribute to Sunday service at Holy Trinity Church.

The acts of Collective Worship follow themes that are aligned to the school's values and include recognition of the church's year while making space for national or international events. Themes may be taken from the 'Barnabus in Schools' resource, '36 Ready to Read Assemblies for Collective Worship' taking school through the Bible story in a year with other relevant issues being picked up as appropriate. More often than not, themes are determined by the needs of the children as matters arise. The context of these acts of worship would be varied but still include a significant Christian input.



Music

Music is a much valued element in the curriculum and plays a large part in assemblies and collective worship.

- A wide range of hymns and choruses are taught to reflect the Christian year, seasonal changes and to celebrate moral and social aspects of life.
- Children are encouraged to learn hymns by heart, but the words are also displayed on a large screen at the front of the hall.
- Part singing is encouraged, as well as simple descants sung by the older children. The children occasionally use percussion instruments to accompany hymns. Music on CDs or accompaniment on the piano may be used to accompany singing.
- Hymns for particular times of the church's year are introduced to acts of collective worship.
- Whole school assemblies start and end with music.

Prayer

- Prayer is an important element of worship although children are invited not forced to pray. Children may be encouraged to reflect on themes explored during Collective Worship through prayer or in moments of silence.
- They may join in with known prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer or the school prayer.
- They may repeat a prayer, following a leader, or take part in a prayer with an answering phrase.
- Grace is said before lunch, and a moment of reflection taken, or a prayer said, at the end of the school day.

Monitoring and Reviewing

It is the role of the school's Foundation Governor, Father David Joynes to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship and report back to the Governing Body. The programme of Collective Worship is coordinated and also monitored by the headteacher.

This policy was approved and adopted by the Governing Body on 9th November 2023

Signed

Chair of Governors

Signed

Head Teacher