

**Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**

Holy Trinity CE Primary School is striving to be a fully inclusive School that serves our local community. Through the love of Jesus Christ, we are preparing our children to be future caring, responsible citizens in a diverse society. Our children will be given every opportunity to grow spiritually, academically, socially and to achieve their full potential within a safe, happy, Christian school family.

John 10 V 10

'Life in all its fullness'



**Mission Statement – Growing and learning in Christ through faith, family and friendship**

We aim to make Collective Worship of the highest quality, strongly reflecting the school's distinctive Christian character, which permeates throughout the whole life of the school

Collective worship is an essential part of the children's and School community's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**1. Fundamentals**

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the deed trust.

The School's ethos statement is:

Recognising its historic foundation, the School will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at all levels.

The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The daily act of Collective Worship required by law in the School shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the School shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use should be made,

within the provisions of the education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England places of Worship, both for occasional acts of collective Worship and for religious education.

Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our ethos statement through our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of our School, and therefore to the Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of the School.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our School life and the governor's see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The Worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of (morning and afternoon) sessions as well as graces before lunch.

The Church of England heritage forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our trust deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the worldwide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that all pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation, and though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God the Father, Jesus the son and the Holy Spirit and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

We have strong links with St. Matthew's Church and the clergy lead whole school Worship on a weekly basis as well as the School visiting Church to Worship at least termly.

The School meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' right to withdraw children do not apply. The provision of collective Worship conforms to Diocesan policy and Worship within School, while reflecting our denomination, will take in to account the levels of development of the children.

There are close links between Collective Worship and Religious Education and it may be that some elements of the RE syllabus are covered in Worship. Worship and Religious Education may be closely interconnected or kept largely separate.

## 2. Responsibility for the policy

The RE Subject leader/Head Teacher is responsible for the implementation and delivery of the policy following advice from Blackburn Diocese and consultation with governors and staff.

The policy was approved by the governing body in the Autumn Term 2022 and will be reviewed again in the Autumn Term 2024

## 3. Statement of broad aims

Collective Worship is the time when the whole school comes together to place *God* at the centre of our daily lives. It is an opportunity for all the School to be together and develop their personal relationship with *God*. We aim that Worship is inclusive and accessible to all children and members of our school family.

It enables all the School community to:

Explore - questions and common themes that are important to us all

Encounter - a faith that is alive

Experience - the joy of celebrating *God's* love

## 4. Organisation and delivery

Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil at 9.05am.

Daily Worship sessions last for approximately 25 minutes. Though Worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the School. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the national curriculum, religious education and British values and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussions and answering thought provoking questions. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as poetry or work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Children are given regular opportunities to lead worship or performing through dance, music or drama. When such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within Worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, Worship and learning is seen as seamless even though, for purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

Parents and governors are given regular opportunities to attend Worship usually on a Wednesday or Friday. Dates are provided to parents on the weekly newsletters and they are sent reminders via our School text messaging service. They are also invited to attend any acts of Worship that take place in Church.

### Worship pattern

Monday	Whole School	Head Teacher
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Tuesday	Whole School	Clergy -Reverend Kat / Father Alex Frost
Wednesday	Whole School	Classes leading Worship - Autumn and Summer terms (parents/governors invited) Staff or visitor on a planned rota basis (Spring term) Worship Ambassadors (termly) Leadership Ambassadors (termly)
Thursday	Whole School	Prayer and Praise led by Head Teacher
Friday	Whole School	Celebration Worship led by Head Teacher (parents invited)

Children enter the hall quietly listening to background music, which creates a worshipful atmosphere or a well-known hymn is played which allows children to praise or reflect as they sing along.

Worship in Church takes place in Church at Harvest, Christmas, Lent or Easter although this list is not exclusive. These services are arranged between School and the Clergy. Children from the School or the Clergy lead these services dependent on the content.

Eucharistic Worship usually takes place in church on at least an annual basis - all pupils take part. Those confirmed receive communion and all children receive a blessing. The Eucharist service allows children to experience and understand the central place of Holy Communion in the life of the church.

Bishop Philip North visits School each Summer term to lead a confirmation service and Holy Communion for all the School community, although these have not taken place recently due to the pandemic.

## 5. Content and approaches

The content of Worship is based around Christian Values/themes/significant events or Saint's days that link to the Church calendar. Weekly content is also based on recent global and national events or news and the children are given the opportunity to explore these, linking their opinions with Christian Values, knowledge of the bible and themes. Worship themes are planned on an annual basis by the Head teacher and SLT and the views of the pupils are sought regarding values/themes that they would like to be included.

A range of approaches is used to provide a rich variety to School Worship, these include: adult and child led Worship sessions, Bible readings, storytelling, use of power point, short film/news clips, drama, role play, art work or music, question and answer sessions, appropriate visitors and the use of visual aids.

A child may occasionally be withdrawn from Collective Worship to work with our learning mentor/support staff who support particularly vulnerable children in terms of pastoral care. This gives the children individual time to explore specific areas of need, which relate to the holistic well-being of the individual.

If any notices or announcements need to be made it is made explicit to the children that Worship has finished prior to these being made.

## **6. Resources**

A range of resources are available to support the delivery of Worship which includes Bibles, visual resources, pictures which are located with the central RE resources and in the storage drawers in the KS1 Area. A selection of books to help with ideas and the delivery of Worship such as Values for life/Fruits and Shoots etc are kept in the Head Teacher's office and are available to borrow on request. There is a computer and overhead projector, which enables resources/images to be displayed and clearly seen by all. Staff are sign posted to the extensive range of on line materials. There is a section in the School library, which contains Bible stories, reference books and books about people of faith, which children can access on their weekly visits to the library. The Head Teacher allocates money on an annual basis to support the continued development of Worship through the school budget. Picture news (First News) is purchased annually and The Blackburn Diocese Worship together videos are used in Whole School / Class Worship.

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

### **The Role of the Worship leader is:**

- To plan and manage high quality Collective worship through the identification of themes/resources and share with these with the School Community;
- To ensure that high quality Collective Worship is delivered to all children;
- To co-ordinate a termly timetable and overview for whole School Worship;
- To liaise with the local clergy;
- Enable staff to attend courses/INSET as appropriate and encourage them to develop their skills for leading Worship;
- To monitor the quality of and content of Collective Worship.
- To keep records of evaluations of collective worship to inform future improvements;
- To enable pupil participation at different levels in acts of Worship;
- To write improvement plans for RE and Worship;
- To liaise with the governor with responsibility for RE and Worship and report to the governing body;

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our School**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 education acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The collective Worship provided by the School must be in accordance with the Trust deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an aided School.

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This usually takes place as a whole school but may take place in various groupings such as separate key stages or in classes. Worship may take place at any time in the School day.

Worship should normally take place on the School premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

### **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from *Collective Worship* and this provision and its limitations are indicated on our School website.

The *Worship and Religious education* provided by the School is in accordance with the Church of England foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the School community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from *Worship and or Religious Education* (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

#### **Complaints about the provision of *Collective Worship***

It is hoped that any complaint about *Collective Worship* will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the *Governors*, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, the formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Policy reviewed by governing body - Autumn Term 2022

Date of next review - Autumn Term 2024