

Collective Worship Policy



Policy Statement

At Holy Trinity CE Primary School, we embrace the vision for a highly educated society in which opportunity is equal for children and young people – no matter what their background or family circumstances.

With Christian faith central to our ethos and teaching, we strive to provide a happy, caring environment to maximise learning and achievement.

Our aim is for this ethos to permeate every aspect of the curriculum – lessons, events, routines, out of school clubs, trips and visits – and this policy seeks to ensure that our vision is fully realised and adhered to by all members of the school community.

Governing Body

Lead Person	Pauline Thomas
Link Governor/Chair of Committee	Lesley Morrison
Committee	Achievement and Provision Committee
Date Reviewed (incl. signature of Link Governor/Chair)	
Date Ratified	October 2021
Next review date	October 2023

Chris Tongeman

David Winn

Collective Worship Policy

Excellence in how we worship, learn and work together

Every one of our children is unique and special. We are committed to providing an exceptional learning experience for all the children in our Holy Trinity family.

We strive to enable our children to acquire the knowledge, skills and characteristics they need to be successful in the wider world.

At Holy Trinity, we serve our community with compassion, empathy and kindness in all that we do.

INTRODUCTION

At Holy Trinity CE Primary School we have due regard for our duties under the equality act 2010. Through the delivery of this policy we will ensure that we eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

We view Collective Worship as an expression of the school's distinctive Christian vision and it is a daily event which adheres to the guidance of:

- The Education Reform Act 1988
- Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) and Local Authority (LA)

In line with our school vision, we strive to create a secure, happy and nurturing Christian environment and that our collective worship is distinctly Christian in its foundation and supports us in living out our vision. Collective worship is a time when our school community can grow spiritually and experience the powers of prayer, stillness and reflection. Through the act of worship, we seek to develop the children's appreciation of the society in which they live and to nurture a respect and understanding of Christianity as well as an awareness of other faiths and festivals. Worship is an integral part of developing the Children's understanding of the Gospel values and the fact that they drive all that we do.

The daily act of Collective Worship provides a time each day for all members of our school community to pray to and worship God. It plays an important role in establishing our community as one based on the ministry and teaching of Jesus. Collective Worship provides an opportunity for all to contribute to and from which all can gain, no matter what their personal commitment. The act of worship also helps to establish, embed and give expression to the Christian values, which form part of the school ethos.

DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Worship Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

AIMS

Collective worship at Holy Trinity aims to:

- Provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon and honour God;
- Develop and nurture the spiritual dimension and foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness and joy;
- Help children discover their place in the world by supporting the search for meaning and to develop awareness of the questions and the realities of life;
- Enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements;
- Establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation;
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school whereby children are able to develop personal relationships through a sharing of experiences and feelings as well as our school values: curiosity, hope, empathy, resilience, creativity and happiness.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others and to bring these needs and our own personal needs before God in prayer;
- Encourage stewardship, respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues;
- Share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The act of collective worship takes place daily in our school and it is a whole school activity.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. The children and staff recognise that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to listen carefully to the teachings, to engage in discussions and to participate fully in prayer and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher, deputy headteacher, assistant headteacher, children in faith group and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, sometimes visitors from organisations or local groups may be invited in to speak with the children. The clergy from Holy Trinity Church regularly leads collective worship. On special occasions the clergy will conduct a short Eucharist Worship with the school, during these services a blessing may be given or the sharing of peace.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian values, our school values and British Values as well as some events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We have a weekly celebration collective worship where staff award children and staff are awarded with a certificate of achievements, both academic and personal and social achievement. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work or also sharing awards that have been received outside of school. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Holy Trinity is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in collective worship.

We invite parents to specific collective worship, class collective worship and church services, where appropriate, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TIMETABLE

Monday	Whole School	Led by SLT, pupils
Tuesday	Whole School	Led by Holy Trinity vicar/church clergy/visitors
Wednesday	Praise & Worship	Led by Music teacher
Thursday	Phase	Led by Class teachers, pupils
Friday	Celebration Worship	Led by SLT, pupils

CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Each act of Collective Worship may include:

- Opening and closing prayers
- The Lord's Prayer
- Time for Reflection
- Talk, reading, drama, dance, DVD, or other presentation
- Relevant teaching point followed by prayer
- Hymn or reflective music, live or recorded

This act of Collective Worship should last about 15 – 20 minutes. Children are expected to leave their classrooms quietly, in preparation for Worship, and sit quietly in preparation, listening to the music.

SCHOOL FAITH GROUP

The School Faith Group consists of members of our school community including children, staff, clergy and governors. The purpose is:

- To think about what makes our school special as a Church School.
- To think about how we can make our school a caring place.
- To help plan and improve worship in school.
- To look at what we learn in RE and what resources we use.
- To look at ways we can help our local and wider communities CPD and Guidance for Visitors:

Whole School Inset for Collective Worship, RE and Christian Ethos takes place on Inset Days and in Staff Meetings for all staff. This is led by the SLT, RE lead and outside speakers (SDBE, Ministers etc.). The RE lead attends the SDBE Co-ordinators Days at the SDBE and feeds information from this back to the staff. Staff attend courses on RE / Collective Worship, when appropriate for them, but most training is done through whole school inset.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Collective Worship and Church Services are monitored and evaluated regularly in a variety of ways. These include:

- Termly observations and evaluations carried out by the governing body, Headteacher and staff.
- Discussions with pupils and Faith Ambassadors
- Discussions with staff
- Visits and subsequent oral or written reports from school governors
- Feedback from parents/carers

INCLUSION

Collective Worship is planned and led so that all children have an equal opportunity to take part in worship and to benefit from the experience. A variety of Christian and inspirational songs and translations of the Bible are used from a range of Christian traditions represented in the school. A variety of multicultural material is also drawn upon encouraging engagement, tolerance and understanding.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship as identified in the Education Act of 1944 and in subsequent legislation – Education Reform Act 1988. Holy Trinity is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life.

In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this Church School community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher before their children are admitted to the school.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

We attend Holy Trinity Church at regular intervals throughout the school year to celebrate festivals within the Christian calendar e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and poignant events for the school e.g. Year 6 Leavers.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Visit to places of worship including Southwark Cathedral and places of worship of other faiths e.g. local mosque
- Church Services
- Visitors
- Special theme days
- Singing, music, the school has music groups, ie orchestra, steel pans band, school band and choir

[LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES](#)

This policy links to our policies on:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- PSHE & RSE Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Race and Equality Policy

Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2020'

Policy Adopted by Governors in: October 2021

Signature (Chair of governors):



Policy Due for Review: October 2023