



HOLY TRINITY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Benner Lane, West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9JQ

Headteacher: Liz Ambrose

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Type:	Non-Statutory
Policy Origin:	N/A
Approved by:	LAB
Last Reviewed:	December 2024
LAB Accepted:	December 2024
Next Review:	December 2026
Summary of changes:	Additional comments on withdrawal from collective worship

Collective Worship Policy

The school recognises and promotes the 1988 Education Reform Act which requires there to be a daily act of collective worship of a predominantly Christian nature.

Occasions of collective worship will incorporate opportunities for celebration; reflection; reverence and response, whilst embracing the Church of England's challenge to deliver worship which is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

A daily act of collective worship involving all pupils is required. Collective worship takes place in an educational setting as part of the whole school curriculum. For some pupils who are members of a faith community it can be a full expression of worship, for others it will be a learning experience and a window to faith.

Vision

At Holy Trinity we have high expectations and aim to ensure that everyone is loved, inspired, nurtured and empowered within a caring and inclusive Christian community. We teach our children Christian values and promote positive attitudes to learning to ensure that they have all they need to become life long learners who reach their full potential and become good global citizens.

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Jesus said: "There is no other commandment greater than these – you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.....you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12 v 30, 31

Aims

Our worship times are planned and presented in a way that ensures that all children feel invited, included and inspired.

- To share in the language and forms of religious stories, doctrines and worship as an educational experience especially the Christian faith as held by the Church of England.
- To provide a forum for reflective response, through thinking, sharing, listening, silence and reflection.
- To explore questions of human significance that have a bearing on the children's lives.
- To be presented with a valid set of values that represent the community of the school and wider world.
- To celebrate what is good and worthwhile in the school and wider community.
- To develop a feeling of belonging and sense of identity.

- To come together to praise and thank God.

Leadership

The leading of worship is shared between the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and the RE leader during whole school settings. Other staff are asked to lead from time to time. Class teachers lead worship weekly in their classrooms, material for this is produced by the RE Leader and Headteacher.

After or before the act of collective worship there may also be a time of secular Assembly, when the school hears and shares its notices and news and celebrates its accomplishments and achievements.

As appropriate and in conjunction with leaders, our worship team, WHAM (We have a mission), take part in the planning and leading of the worship time, either through the actions to songs, or prayers. These children will also bring their class candle to every worship.

Pattern

Monday 10am – Whole School Collective Worship with the Open the Book Team

Tuesday 10am – Key Stage Collective Worship led by Headteacher and Deputy Head.

Wednesday 10am – KS1 Class Worship and KS2 Worship in Song

Thursday 10am – KS2 Class Worship and KS1 Worship in Song

Friday 9am – Whole School Collective Worship

Terms open and close with whole school gatherings as well as participating together in church festivals such as: Harvest, Easter, Christmas and Remembrance. The whole school may also come together for world and national concerns such as natural disasters.

The whole school also comes together for annual Pause Days where the normal curriculum is suspended and there is a whole school focus on topics such as Easter, Pentecost, Remembrance, or School Values.

Content and themes

All acts of worship will follow a structure of welcome, lighting a candle, setting the scene, have God/Jesus or the Holy Spirit as the point of focus, be distinctly Christian in teaching and include a prayer or reflection time at the end. Themes are chosen by the Head and RE lead in liaison with staff and also with pupils through the WHAM team. It is important that the act of worship has an inspiring message, that it is inclusive to all children and invites them to think and act on the spiritual, moral and ethical nature of what is brought to their attention.

Throughout an academic year the worship leaders will cover the following aspects of life in a balanced and relevant way. This is co-ordinated by the Headteacher according to the worship plan. Plans are kept in a central file in the headteachers office.

- Our school vision
- Our school values
- Appreciation of God
- Appreciation of each other
- The importance of everyone including ourselves
- School teamwork
- Individual responsibility
- Corporate responsibility
- Our place in the world
- Caring for the world

- Thankfulness to God – for each other, for the world, for where we live etc
- Seasonal/Harvests, Christmas, Easter
- Stories from the Bible
- The life of Jesus
- Friendship
- Charity support – Charity vote
- Tales of courage / Great leaders
- Stories from other religions.
- Unicef – Children’s Rights
- Leader in me
- British values
- Eco concerns

Records of all acts of worship will be held in school and will be available to parents on request.

Prayer

Every class has a Holy Trinity Prayer book which children add to over the course of the year.

Every class has a worship area which is changed on a regular basis (half termly) and reflects the focus for the term. It includes objects that aid prayer and reflection.

All classes share a prayer time during the day this maybe before lunch or at the end of the day. Children use their class prayer books or make up their own prayers.

There is a prayer box and a prayer station located in the school corridor where pupils are free to write their prayers. These prayers are shared with the staff prayer meeting every Friday lunchtime and also with the local church. Prayer activities are created and updated in collaboration with the WHAM team throughout the year.

Links with the Parish and the local community

The Rector will visit the school to lead worship at least twice a term. In keeping with ecumenical policy of the Church of England there will be occasional visits from representatives of other churches. The partnership with diocese and school is maintained through termly Head/Chair briefings and the annual Headteacher’s Retreat. The local church and vicar are also used as resources for RE lessons.

A team from the church visit the school weekly to deliver an ‘Open the Book’ time of worship where they bring bible stories and concept to life through drama.

Representatives from local organisations, such as the Bisley and West End Foodbank, visit across the year, and the school encourages donations via the collection point outside the school building.

The right to withdraw children from worship

Whilst it is expected that all pupils will be present during acts of worship, the school is, none the less, committed to respecting the integrity of the religious communities from which the pupils come, and it recognises that some parents may wish to exercise their legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.

In this instance, careful discussion is welcomed with the Headteacher about the wishes of parents for their child, with the awareness that our worship aims to be inclusive, so that informed choices can be made. A parent may wish their child to be withdrawn fully, or from selected elements, such as prayers.

The school will provide a safe space for the child to be supervised whilst they are withdrawn from collective worship, but the school will not provide alternative additional teaching or incur extra costs. Parents are encouraged to meet regularly with the Headteacher to review their wishes.

There is a distinction between the withdrawal from collective worship and from Religious Education Lessons.

Monitoring

Collective worship will be monitored by Governors, Head of School, and RE lead through observation of worship times, and also pupil voice. The findings of these will be shared with collective worship leaders termly.

The Foundation Governors will review this policy with the Headteacher and staff representatives every 2 years.

L Hardiman
December 2024