

# HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

## POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Introduction.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Collective Worship at Holy Trinity School. It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff.

### The place of Collective Worship

- Is central to our school ethos and based on Anglican principles which underpin it.
- Should be inclusive and individual integrity should be respected.
- Recognises the right of pupils to reflect individually on spiritual issues and provide this opportunity.
- Provides the opportunity for staff and pupils to share in the development of the whole school ethos and support the promotion of Christian values.
- Is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all children are entitled.
- Should underpin all aspects of school life.
- Defines 'Worship' as:

'focussed attention on God (Father, Son and Spirit) through prayer, praise and learning in order to facilitate a response of awe, wonder and enquiry'.

### Collective worship at Holy Trinity School.

Through collective worship we aim to:

1. Develop a sense of reverence, spiritual awareness and growth of the whole person.
2. There will be a daily act of worship either whole school or in a key stage setting.

3. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
4. Records of collective worship are available from the Headteacher on request.
5. The school policy accords with the diocesan policy on collective worship in voluntary aided schools.
6. At least once a term there will be an act of collective worship led by the school at Holy Trinity Church to which parishioners will be invited.
7. The act of worship is not designated as curriculum time.

Our objectives are to:

- Provide an opportunity to worship God.
- Provide opportunities for the exploration and development of children's understanding of social and moral values.
- Increase knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, traditions, celebrations and patterns of worship.
- Raise awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.
- Provide time for celebration and reflection on things to be held of worth within the school day.
- Provide a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special achievements.
- Facilitate the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing.
- Encourage children to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music, dance, drama or prayer.

## PRINCIPLES

Acts of Collective Worship should be:

'Inclusive':

- Be child-centred, related to the children's own experiences and relevant to the children's concerns.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each child's own life-stance, involve children as active participants.
- Be shaped to the particular needs of children.
- Foster a sense of community; a sense of shared values, identity, perception, outlook and purpose.

'Educational':

- Provide learning experiences; properly prepared, executed and evaluated.
- Be explicitly related to other curricular activity and links forged.
- Provide opportunities to reflect on educational purpose and to celebrate a range of educational achievements.

'Spiritual':

- Provide an opportunity for time to gather, to be still, to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity; a time to refresh the spirit.
- Be a 'special' time with a distinctive atmosphere, one that is conducive to worship.
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Involve the use of words, music and images, to introduce children to the spiritual dimensions of life.
- Provide opportunities for children to participate in a variety of spiritual activities, such as  
worship, singing, dancing, drama, prayer quiet contemplation and meditation,
- Provide opportunities or space for individual reflection and a variety of individual responses.

### Withdrawal from Acts of Collective Worship

Children who are withdrawn from 'Collective Worship' at their parent's request will be accommodated in a suitable place.

The class teachers and / or Headteacher will discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child to ascertain when they may be included.

Administrative and disciplinary matters will, as far as possible, be separated from acts of 'Collective Worship'.

### ANNEX A

1. Practices.
2. Acts of Collective Worship will be led by....

## ANNEX A

### Practices

Acts of collective worship will take the following forms during the course of the school week - see timetables:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - Whole school in the Hall
- Thursday - Key Stage 1 together. Key Stage 2 in the hall.
- Although it is not a legal requirement for children in the foundation stage to participate in daily acts of collective worship, our children in foundation stage attend whole school assemblies.

Children should not participate in more than one act of 'Collective Worship' each day. In order to create an atmosphere of calmness prior to the start of 'Collective Worship' children will be encouraged to be silent from the time they leave their classrooms and expected to enter the hall in silence. As is appropriate, music may be played for entering and leaving.

Acts of 'Collective Worship' will generally focus on specific themes, which will be chosen through liaison with the Head, and RE subject leader in discussion with other staff. These themes will generally last for a month.

On occasions acts of 'Collective Worship' will centre on 'one-off' issues. These will be planned into the long-term programme for 'Collective Worship' as far as possible. There is, however, the need for flexibility in order to respond to the unexpected where appropriate.

A record will be kept of the content of each act of 'Collective Worship' in the format as appended.

Acts of collective worship will be led as follows:

- Whole School - the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher with all teachers present.
- Key Stage 2 - Deputy Head and other members of staff on a rota basis.

- Key Stage 1 - Members of staff.
- At least one day by a member of the clergy team.

LSA's will attend acts as appropriate to the needs of individual children.

A variety of methods of presentation will be used to help stimulate and maintain the children's interest, for example, stories, poems, artefacts, discussion, remembering etc.

### Resources

See R.E Policy

IT WAS REVIEWED by the Staff in January 2011

IT WAS REVIEWED & APPROVED by the School Committee of the Governing Body in the spring term .

IT WAS APPROVED by the Governing Body on

Approved by FGB: Review period : 3 years Next review due: Lead group: School Com
---