



Collective Worship Policy

Date: September 2016

Review: September 2018

Signed: Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Aims

As a Church of England School, Collective Worship at Trinity C.E. Primary School aims to create an atmosphere in which both children and adults can feel they are in the presence of God. It is through prayer that we seek to 'reach out' towards God and enter into dialogue.

The daily act of worship is also a means of strengthening the school family, in a common focus, where all individuals have a significant and valued role to play.

In addition we aim to promote spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development of the children through their participation in the collective act of worship. It is important that worship is relevant to their everyday lives.

We hope, through our Prayer Time, to lay the foundation within the children for continued practice and involvement in worship which will be developed in their future lives.

Our Approach to Worship

A variety of methods and approaches to worship have been implemented in order to achieve our aims.

We consider it extremely important to create an atmosphere conducive to worship and reflection. Therefore, from the very beginnings of a child's journey through our school, he or she will be encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective at the start of our act of worship. A calm atmosphere is created by playing music for the children to enter the hall and collect their thoughts before the worship starts.

Although it is important to elicit oral responses from the children in relation to the weekly focus, we also provide moments of silence and reflection in order to develop another dimension of response. Stillness and calm are expected at these times.

Appropriate use of vocabulary, both to enable the younger children to understand and to extend the knowledge of the more able, is seen as essential in the presentation of an act of worship. In order to participate fully the children need to understand the focus.

The use of artefacts and images are also used to stimulate and develop in the children a sense of awe and wonder in the world around them.

Organisation

The collective act of worship at Trinity C.E. Primary School takes place four times a week in the school hall whilst one day a week each class has a PSHE themed reflection activity. All children are present at our act of worship, which is known as Prayer Time.

Children are encouraged to create a reverent and thoughtful atmosphere by entering the hall quietly and listening to an extract of music.

There are two weekly themes for Prayer Time. These are chosen to reflect the PSHE theme of that week and also reflect of significant religious festivals and occasions. Where possible, these two themes should be linked. All themes covered also link to our school values.

Members of our community regularly lead Prayer Time, leaving the remaining days to the teaching staff to lead. Both staff and governors employ a variety of styles of presentation. These include prayer, music, words, visual stimuli and creative expression.

In prayer we include praising God, saying sorry, saying thank you, questioning, reflection and listening.

In music we sing a variety of hymns and songs, both traditional and modern. Wherever possible, hymns and songs pertaining to the weekly theme are chosen to be part of the act of worship. Children learning to play instruments are given the opportunity to accompany the singing whenever possible. Recorded music is also used during times of reflection to create a suitable atmosphere.

Bible stories and readings from both Old and New Testament, poetry and prose are read, recited or acted out, when appropriate, to stimulate thought and discussion.

Visual elements are also included when necessary, or to help get across a particular idea. This will sometimes include the cross, flowers, vestments and Church Years colours, examples of the natural world, pictures and photographs, candles and our own personal objects.

Continuity

In order to gain continuity we consider the following principles should be adhered to by all adults who lead the collective act of worship.

1. Prayer Time should be made as inclusive as possible for all children participating, from those in the Reception Year to those in Year 6.
2. The act of worship should always be educational, having a clear message to all that is easily understood. It should give the children 'food for thought'.
3. The time of worship should contribute to and extend the religious education of the children.
4. There should always be a 'sense of occasion' during the act of worship. This is a very special part of the school day.
5. Worship at Trinity C.E. Primary School should always be planned with the needs of our children in mind.

Themes that are current may also be discussed within the classroom if appropriate, for example if cooperation is the weekly theme a situation may arise where discussion could be linked back to Prayer Time in order to help with a problem. The collective act of worship is therefore not seen in isolation. Its influence and message are ever present.

Wherever possible cross-curricular links are made. This may include using examples of personalities from History to illustrate a point, geographical references to the position of the Holy Island or Iona, or the use of an artist's painting as an example of the talents God give us.

Recording

All adults leading worship are given a new plan of the weekly themes for Prayer Time at the beginning of the school year.

Following the daily act of worship the adult responsible for that day is required to record the main focus of the worship and reflect on the assembly afterwards.

If governors attend a Prayer Time they take the opportunity to evaluate the worship they have taken part in. This is used to give an overview for The Governing Body to monitor practice within school.

Resources to assist in the presentation of Prayer Time are stored in the staff room and are used by teachers and governors. These resources include stories, poems, pictures, videos and some artefacts.

Photographs are occasionally taken at Prayer Time to be included on our website, for example, to record the visit by NCH or to celebrate Red Nose Day.

Legal Status

Trinity C.E. Primary School is aware that the collective act of worship must take place every school day on the school premises. It must take into account the family backgrounds of the children, their age and aptitude.

As a voluntary controlled school, worship must be in accordance with the trust deed and must pertain to the practice and tradition of the Church of England. Those who lead worship are mindful of this fact.

The governors of Trinity C.E. Primary School have a legal responsibility to ensure that the collective act of worship takes place correctly.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Trinity C.E. Primary School we would hope that all children will take part in collective worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to do so are advised to discuss the matter with the headteacher in the first instance.

We believe it is important that the teaching staff convey their commitment to collective worship by participating daily as a member of the school community. Through this it is hoped that children will be aware that worship is a shared and valuable experience for both children and adults. However a teacher's right to withdraw is noted.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the worship coordinator to ensure correct provision of the collective act of worship in consultation with the Foundation Governors. The coordinator

will also be responsible for updating resources, ensuring recording of worship and attending relevant courses to enhance worship at Trinity C.E. Primary School.