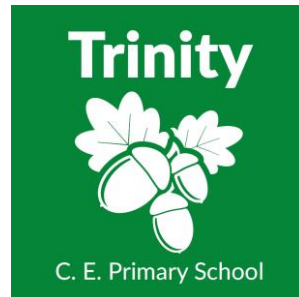


# Collective Worship Policy



**Date: September 2018**

**Review: September 2020**

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.

Collective 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 and adults through their participation in the collective act of worship. It is important that worship is relevant to their everyday lives.

We hope, through our collective worship, to lay the foundations for continued practice and involvement in worship in the future.

## **Our Approach to Worship**

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.

During collective worship, we provide opportunities to:

- \* share stories and videos;
- \* explore artefacts and images;
- \* listen to scripture;
- \* take part in drama;
- \* sing hymns and worship songs, both modern and traditional;
- \* talk and share ideas;

\* quietly reflect and pray.

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 collective worship. In order to participate fully, the children need to understand the focus.

### **Organisation**

Collective 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.

Themes for collective worship may include links to our PSHE Jigsaw theme, our Christian values, Christian festivals or special days, as well as linking to specific Bible passages or stories.

Collective worship is led by various members of the school community, including staff, children and governors. In addition, we have regular collective worship led by Canon Brian both at school and in St. Peter's Church, Aldwinckle. We also welcome other visitors from the wider community to lead collective worship from time to time.

A visual focus is clearly present in the hall which includes a cross, church colours, a candle, a Bible and a triangle to represent the Holy Trinity.

### **Continuity**

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

1. Collective worship should be made as inclusive as possible for all children participating, from those in the Reception Year to those in Year 6.
2. Collective worship should always be educational, having a clear message to all that is easily understood. It should give the children 'food for thought'.
3. Collective worship should contribute to and extend the spiritual development of all those present.
4. There should always be a 'sense of occasion' during collective worship. This is a very special part of the school day.
5. Collective 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 collective worship in order to help with a problem. The collective worship is therefore not seen in isolation. Its influence and message are ever present.

### **Recording**

All adults leading worship are given a collective worship rota at the beginning of each term. This sets out suggested ideas and themes for that term. A planning sheet

should be completed for each collective worship and placed in the collective worship folder.

Following the collective worship, the adult leading it should ask a child or other adult to complete an evaluation form. The completed evaluation should also be placed in the collective worship folder.

If governors attend collective worship, 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. Members of the Church Schools Group may also monitor and evaluate collective worship during the year.

### **Legal Status**

Trinity C.E. Primary School is aware that collective 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 collective 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 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 staff member's right to withdraw is noted.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the collective worship coordinator to ensure correct provision of the collective worship in consultation with the Foundation Governors. The coordinator is also responsible for updating resources, ensuring collective worship is recorded and evaluated, as well as attending relevant courses to enhance worship at Trinity C.E. Primary School.