



Trinity St. Peter's

Church of England Primary School

where children shine

## **Collective Worship Policy**

At Trinity St Peter's, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life and gives us the opportunity to come together as a community and a family. It is a very important way of providing opportunities for our pupils Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development\*. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement:

*'Guided by our faith in everything that we do'.*

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. Collective Worship in the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. We emphasize the Christian value of Koinonia, that is, community. At Trinity St Peter's School, as well as our own school community, we are embedded in our church communities, the community in our town and country, and the worldwide Anglican Church. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, this is conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold acts of worship that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community. The messages and themes of these assemblies are always related back to Christianity wherever possible, encouraging the children to make links and draw comparisons.

Trinity St. Peter's unique set of school core values underpins all areas of learning. Through our school values, Collective Worship and SMSC we promote the British fundamental values, where British law, democracy and a mutual respect and tolerance for those of other faiths, cultures and beliefs is embedded.

### **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are to help the children to:

- explore their relationship with God
- reflect on Christian values and reinforce positive attitudes
- develop an increased awareness of other religions and cultures
- explore the teachings of the Bible through a variety of themes
- worship in an Anglican tradition
- encounter Christianity in action through the lives of people with faith
- understand what it means to have faith and to appreciate the beliefs of others
- foster an understanding and tolerance of other faiths
- explore their own beliefs
- feel included in worship, regardless of background or faith and to encourage them to reflect on their attitudes and behaviour
- develop and deepen a sense of community in which to share achievements, joys and difficulties, knowing there are people who will care, listen and support
- consider spiritual and moral issues

- participate actively in our acts of worship, including planning and leading acts of worship
- understand the importance of 'quiet time' as a means of reflecting on what they have learnt, shared with others and believe
- reflect upon and self-assess their own learning

### Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship which is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. It is usually started in a clearly defined way by either the lighting of a candle, prayer or piece of music. Children are made aware that worship time is a period of calm, reverent reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We expect them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian Faith and monthly value and ensure that special festivals and events of the Christian calendar are marked and celebrated either in school or at church. These themes take place on a two-year cycle.

#### Year 1:

Month	Sept	October	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Value	Dignity & Respect	Generosity	Peace	Hope	Humility	Love	Forgiveness	Trust	Courage	Friendship	Service

#### Year 2:

Month	Sept	October	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
Value	Creation	Thankfulness	Justice	Compassion	Wisdom	Joy	Sacrifice	Reconciliation	Truthfulness	Perseverance	Responsibility

Weekly 'Star of the Week' assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements recognised. 'Success Leaves' are also given out to children which link to that month's value, e.g. how a child has shown courage or perseverance.

The current organisation of worship in school is:

**Monday** – Teacher led in class (\*one group of children plan for CW delivery)

**Tuesday** – Sing and Praise

**Wednesday** – Whole school Collective Worship led by a member of clergy from either Holy Trinity or St Peter's

**Thursday** – Teacher led/Child led in class

**Friday** – Star of the Week Celebration Worship in class

In addition to this, worship also takes place in either St Peter's or Holy Trinity churches to which all parents and carers are welcome to attend. This means that we

strengthen links with the communities of both our churches and can worship in these special places as a whole school. Throughout the year, classes perform assemblies to the whole school on a religious theme, for example, Easter Week, and Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils take part in a Nativity performance. Visiting groups and individuals are also welcomed into the school to lead worship where appropriate.

The worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

### **Child-led Collective Worship**

Up to four children are encouraged to lead the act of worship in class towards the end of each month in school (typically the final Thursday of each month).

The children are given time on a Monday to plan, using the 'Gather, Pause for Thought and Go Forth' cards as a way of helping them to structure the Collective Worship. This will also include quiet 'Reflection' time and can also be linked to another faith where appropriate.

A separate group of children will be chosen each week to evaluate the Collective Worship and their evaluations stored in the Collective Worship Scrapbook, found in each classroom.

### **Our Values**

At Trinity St Peter's we not only give great importance to the Christian values but also the values we try to embed in all our teaching through the school's SHINE vision in order to create as many opportunities as possible for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer and Grace, and also prayers written or chosen by the children. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or SMT, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle, picture displayed on the screen or playing of music. Prayers are to be displayed in class in the reflection area. Each classroom has their own prayer box in the reflection area where children can add their own personal intentions, prayers and reflections which can be included in daily acts of worship.

At the beginning of lunch and at the end of the school day prayers are said in class.

### **Planning of Collective Worship**

Following the two-yearly cycle, Collective Worship is planned by teachers in phase groups each month, and planners are sent to governors and clergy from both St. Peter's Church and Holy Trinity Church to be scrutinised and amended before being shared with all staff.

Planning will be based on the monthly value and will include a range of appropriate activities for other teachers from both key stages to deliver to their class. These will also include relevant global links as well as Christian role models for classes to focus upon as and when appropriate. Each monthly planner will also feature a multi-faith link to the value, which is compulsory to be taught.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

At the end of each month, teachers evaluate the teaching and learning of the monthly value, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of their Collective Worship. These evaluations are submitted to the subject leader each month. These evaluations are stored in the class Collective Worship Scrapbook.

The subject leader reviews the monthly planning of Collective Worship and each class' record of learning linked to monthly value. Collective Worship feedback informs part of SLT meetings each week. The subject leader also monitors school website blogs and class Twitter feeds alongside the above.

### **Evidence of Collective Worship**

Any photographic evidence of worship, or samples of pieces of work produced by the pupils are added to the class Collective Worship scrapbook accompanied by a blurb explaining the activity where this is not immediately apparent. Collective Worship evaluations of each monthly value are also affixed to the Collective Worship Scrapbook for review.

### **Worship Committee**

The worship committee at Trinity St. Peter's consists of one pupil from each class from Years 1 to 6. The meetings are held monthly with the RE Subject Leader. They share the Collective Worship evaluation and give feedback on the Collective Worship activities from their class with the rest of the committee. The children provide the Subject Leader with the feedback from their class; what they enjoyed, how they learned best and their preferred experiences.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

The Worship & Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and whole life of the community. Since the conduct of the school reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do so) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.

If a request for withdrawal is made, the Head Teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation as it may be that only some elements of Religious Education or Worship are objected to.

## **Monitoring and Review**

A scrapbook is kept in each class, recording acts of worship and monthly evaluations. The children are also encouraged to lead and evaluate acts of worship too.

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of the Headteacher, governors and RE Subject Leaders.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the RE Subject Leader, Head Teacher and Governors.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Review Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

### **\* Spiritual development:**

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. Psalm 139:13-14*

Spiritual development within Trinity St. Peter's enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator; their 'innermost being'; their relationships and interactions with others and of the awe & wonder of the environment.

### **Moral development**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

Moral development in Trinity St. Peter's is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, WWJD (*What Would Jesus Do?*). This offers pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives.

### **Social development**

*As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35*

Social development in Trinity St. Peter's develops pupils' understanding of Koinonia and what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to follow his example and love one another is put into practice.

### **Cultural development**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

Cultural development in Trinity St. Peter's provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.