

Collective Worship Policy

Date ratified	March 2025
Committee Responsible for Policy	Faith Team
Date to be updated	March 2028
Headteacher Signature	
Chair of Governors/ Committee Signature	

Growing together as children of God

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School:

- we want our pupils to **grow** in confidence, independence, resilience and knowledge, so that all achieve their full potential and develop a life-long love of learning and of the world around us.
- we work **together** with families, community and church to model positive relationships, supporting each other and acknowledging that we are stronger when we work together.
- we are growing together as **children of God**, strengthening our faith, secure in the knowledge we are unique, loved and cherished.

Biblical Basis for Policy

Psalm 95:1-3

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

and extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God,

the great King above all gods.

I. Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school. We recognise and value Collective Worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. Collective Worship is key to guiding all of the school community on their spiritual journey.

Collective Worship at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School is planned to:

- Be theologically/Biblically-based, inspirational and inclusive.
- Engage all learners, who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships with others and God.
- Have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- Enable all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and across the world.
- Challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey.
- Develop understanding of prayer, reflection and stillness
- Provide opportunities for learners to sing praises to God

- Contribute significantly to pupil and staff spiritual development by providing something more than the obvious, something to wonder at and something to respond to.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community.
- Provide opportunities to celebrate specific Christian festivals.

2. Legislation and guidance

The daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In a Church of England School, it should always be Christian worship and reflect the traditions of the Church of England, developing learners' experience and understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

The Church of England's guidance document, *Inclusive Invitational Inspiring* (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf>) has been produced to challenge, to guide and to set expectations for Church school communities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that Collective Worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

3. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, everyone is loved, cherished and valued – this is a key part of our ethos, *Growing Together as Children of God*. We provide an environment that is free from discrimination and where our richly diverse community is celebrated. We are committed to the biblical teaching that all people are made in the image of God.

Worship is collective, in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others, and, for some, to God. At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, all of the community can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible, to all, recognising that our families come from homes with different faith backgrounds, or no faith backgrounds. Many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school.

Through Worship, and prayer tables, pupils are given the opportunity to think and to ask questions. All contributions are welcomed and valued. Collective Worship involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community. Pupils are included in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship.

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, it is hoped that the whole school community, regardless of their background, will attend and participate in worship. Occasionally, families may ask to withdraw their child from worship. This should be done in consultation with the headteacher, who will facilitate a discussion with the family.

4. Collective Worship Planning

Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis, in conjunction with the Holy Trinity Church clergy, and other local church schools. Different Biblically-rooted themes are followed each term. Worship is planned to well to ensure that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Planning ensures that the following are included in Worship:

- Lighting of the candle and opening liturgy
- Introduction to the theme
- Sharing the theme/Bible story in an engaging manner (often this includes drama, storytelling, video clips) with the children actively engaged
- Responding to the message in a way that relates to the lives of the children and adults
- Prayer time
- Worship – singing praise songs
- Ending and sending out – which includes extinguishing the candle

Collective Worship follows the same pattern each week:

- Monday – introducing the theme - usually led by the headteacher
- Tuesday – following the theme – led by a member of Holy Trinity Church clergy
- Wednesday – Praise Worship – singing praises to God through song – led by the music teacher
- Thursday – Recorded worship held in class – a variety of different themes are included
- Friday – Celebration Worship – the whole school community celebrates the achievements of the children. Children are encouraged to share with the whole school community what they have been doing outside of school

The Growing Together in Spirit Team (children) and the Faith Team (adults) monitor Collective Worship on a regular basis.

5. Staff and Community Involvement

Holy Trinity C of E Primary School welcomes visitors to support the delivery of Collective Worship, as long as Worship supports the Christian ethos of the school. The headteacher is consulted before a visitor is invited to take Collective Worship.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Faith Team (a sub-committee of the Governing Body).

7. Linked Policies or Documents

The Church of England's Guidance Document Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf>