



Holy Trinity CE School

Collective Worship Policy

February 2016

Introduction.

Ethos and Aims of Holy Trinity CE School.

Our status as a Church of England school is fundamental to our ethos and purpose. We expect all our staff to support our Christian ethos and aims.

At Holy Trinity School we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun.

Our motto is:

Alta Pete – Aim High

Let your light shine

The primary aim of the school is to help each pupil reach his or her full potential so that they may develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to take full advantage of the opportunities available in their future lives.

Policy Aims and purpose

- to promote and enhance the Christian ethos of the school
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider and reflect spiritual, social, and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship;
- to enable children to experience the awe and wonder of the world.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

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 collective worship on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions of the Church of England. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school from Monday to Friday. These include worship led by the head teacher, clergy, chaplains, teachers and their classes, singing and

celebration assemblies. We visit Christ Church three times per term for services. These include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Our whole school values for worship this year are

GENEROSITY and COMPASSION – Autumn

COURAGE and FORGIVENESS – Spring

FRIENDSHIP and RESPECT – Summer

Weekly Overview for Worship.

Monday

9.05am – 9:20am. Whole school lead by Sarah Chaloner Head Teacher

Tuesday

10.30am – 10.45am Whole School

Lead by visitors from different groups and faiths as well as our own.

Wednesday

10.30am – 10.45am. Songs of Praise Collective Worship

Church On selected weeks.

9.10am – 10am approx. All children in classes to walk to church with their teacher and teaching assistants.

Thursday

10.30am – 10.45am Whole school – lead by the chaplains and Year 5/6

Friday Whole school

2:55pm – 3.15pm Children receive 'Special Mentions' certificates, other certificates or awards. Also includes class curriculum shows, see the rota in the staff-room. Parents invited to see their child's class curriculum show.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the stories and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher or other members of staff lead collective worship, but sometimes visitors or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the values and traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes for each term.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by sharing their learning with the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Our collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school as well as give leadership opportunities.

Collective worship plays an important part in promoting the vision and values of the school. This values based approach ensures all children are aware of themselves as learners, are aware of how they should be as citizens and shows they are valued and their achievements recognised. It encourages moral and spiritual development allows time for reflection and prayer.

We invite parents to join in our church services three times per term when we celebrate Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We have a Eucharist service annually and we encourage parents and the wider community to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school share Christian fellowship and work together to support the achievements and spiritual development of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. To the date of this policy no child has been withdrawn under the current Headteacher's tenure.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the link clergy member to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship, both in the capacity of incumbent and Governor. The link clergy member liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.