



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed September 2017

To be reviewed September 2019

Holy Trinity Rosehill Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England school.

Our school mission statement is “Providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice”.

In 2016, school worked with the wider school community and introduced a school motto to reflect the Christian context of our school. This motto is understood by children and links to the Trinity:

Love God. Love Learning. Love Each Other.

Our school aims to:

- Give high priority to the spiritual development of pupils, enabling them to develop attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility and to realise their full potential.
- Foster a sympathetic understanding of the Christian faith whilst exerting no pressure to believe.
- Encourage strong links between school, home and church and prepare pupils for life in the wider community.
- Encourage respect for other people’s property, the school and the local surroundings.
- Provide an intellectually stimulating environment where children will develop a positive attitude to learning.
- Make learning fun.
- Create a strong ethos where children can achieve their potential.
- Develop pupil’s self-confidence and raise their self-esteem so they will learn to work with independence and self-discipline.
- Provide a warm friendly atmosphere where children gain respect and tolerance of, and show a caring attitude for others.
- Show a caring attitude towards all children and adults concerned with the school.

Providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice

Holy Trinity Rosehill C of E VA Primary School

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Holy Trinity Rosehill Church of England School.

Worship in our school should:

- Create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school – thankfulness, trust, hope, friendship and forgiveness
- Have *Integrity* as acts of Anglican worship whilst being *Invitational, Inclusive* and *Inspirational*
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world and reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church
- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage children and adults - making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve children and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community

The aims of collective worship

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community to lead worship

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How we achieve our aims: We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the children's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for children to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop children's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving children and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.

Central attributes of an act of worship: Our School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

- Gathering Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
- Engaging Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
- Responding Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

and in addition

- Sending Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

Expectations of children: We intend to provide children with the following learning opportunities in order to fulfil our overall aims for collective worship.

- individual response and reflection;
- listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others;
- introducing children to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs;
- sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge;
- silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer; celebration of the shared values in the school community;

Organisation and delivery: An act of Collective Worship will be held each day, following themes. Themes are followed, with enough flexibility built in to accommodate the unexpected. The worship will be of a broadly Christian nature, taking into account the Church of England foundation of the school, but may include stories from other faiths and other appropriate sources. Major Christian festivals will be celebrated at the appropriate time. Stories, poetry, hymns, songs and prayers will form an integral part of the proceedings and children will be encouraged to participate in the worship by way of responses or more direct involvement.

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Each class will be responsible for the organisation and presentation of an act of Collective Worship on a rota basis. These acts of worship may be based on work being undertaken in class or the weekly worship theme. The worship may involve a variety of presentation styles (speaking/ singing/ drama/ dance/ artwork). Parents/carers and family members will be invited to these acts of worship. We also invite members of Holy Trinity with St. Mark's congregation and our Governors to share worship with us.

Location: Generally acts of collective worship take place on the school premises. Once a week we come together as a school to worship in Holy Trinity with St. Mark's church which is attached to our school.

The centrality of prayer: During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a children or adult, read out or recited.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship. Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual children and adults.

Planning: Collective worship is planned and evaluated. This ensures that a variety of approaches are used to fulfil the whole school aims for collective worship and provide children with appropriate learning opportunities.

Records: We keep simple records of acts of collective worship. Records assist with the review of the school's provision and inform future planning. They also provide evidence that the school is meeting the legal requirements.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by children, staff, and governors.

Children are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in worship, questionnaires and Christian Club meetings. We invite parents/carers and family members to evaluate our worship following attendance.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Communication: The monthly school newsletter contains a Bible verse linked to a recent worship theme so parents/carers are informed about worship taking place in school. Some parents/carers will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child. Whenever one of the school's Christian values is explored in depth, parents/carers also receive supplementary information about this value. The weekly update for staff also contains a Bible verse which staff may choose to reflect on.

Parental and family involvement: Parents/carers are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

Legal status of collective worship: All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

Parental rights of withdrawal: It is the right of every parent to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship. However worship is central to the life of our school and there is no guarantee that children can be withdrawn from the Christian ethos of the school. If this is the case the school will provide supervision (but not extra teaching) for the children concerned. However, we would hope that since parents/carers have chosen a Church of England School, they would wish for their child to take part in collective worship and to understand that should they withdraw their child they will still be within the Christian ethos of the school.

The Governors give effect to their responsibilities for Collective Worship by delegating the oversight of this to the Head Teacher.

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