



Trinity St Mary's Church of England Primary  
School

## **Collective Worship Policy Spring Term 2022**

***"Many Hearts Make A School"***

*It is our vision to follow in the footsteps of Jesus: dreaming big; working hard; not giving up; never stopping learning and being kind.*

*We achieve this through our associated Christian Values of: love, honesty, forgiveness, dedication and sharing.*

*Our vision, Christian values and school motto enable every person in our family to thrive. We are a warm, welcoming school where everyone matters. Our school community shows kindness and caring towards each other and our local and global communities. We dream for all of our children to grow up to be happy, kind-hearted, caring, responsible and successful members of God's creation.*

# **Trinity St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

At Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Within our Collective Worship we also actively seek to promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Culture (SMSC) as an integral part of our reflection and discussion.

### **Legal requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **What are we aiming to do?**

At Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School, we view collective worship as a vital time when either the whole school or each class meet together to share in worship and each other's achievements.

We believe that collective worship should:

- Be an expression of praise and gratitude and a recognition of our vulnerability as humans
- Provide an educational framework to encourage pupils' development
- Be appropriate and relevant to all pupils, regardless of their personal or religious commitment
- Take into consideration the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils
- Develop caring/sharing attitudes amongst the pupils and a very 'special' community sense of belonging
- Promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical awareness and wellbeing and help pupils to become sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, appreciating that people differ, yet should be valued, whatever their beliefs or culture

- Provide the time for the experience of reflection – private time for staff and pupils without having to express opinions and thoughts

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell our pupils that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect pupils to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer, reflection 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 pupils.

Collective Worship takes place daily. On a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday collective worship takes place in Holy Trinity Church.

Where required for Covid-19 reasons, worship may be restricted to individual Key Stages, to in class, or to remote sessions as per the school risk assessment.

### **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for collective worship reflect the Church calendar, the teachings of Jesus, Bible stories, our school ethos and current events – local, national and global. The themes for each half term are chosen by our Collective Worship Group and RE leader. The Headteacher discusses Collective Worship with the local clergy so that they are aware of and can share in the term's themes and focus areas.

The worship begins with the pupils entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. Pupils are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer and/or a period of quiet reflection. The pupils then lead out as music is played. Hymn practice aims to develop the pupil's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer. The pupils leave in the same way as before.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

Worship seeks to acknowledge the breadth of Christian denominations represented in the school. Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer, prayers written by the pupils and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. A cross is displayed in the Church and in the school hall. At the end of morning session, a prayer is said in each class. Teachers say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day. There is a central prayer space in the school which children are free to use.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they will reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. Our Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter Services as well attending collective worship in the Church during the week as previously detailed. The local clergy visit regularly to lead Worship.

### **Equal Opportunities and special needs issues**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship.

### **Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship**

The monitoring and evaluating of the planning, provisions and impact of worship is carried out each term. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. Our children contribute to evaluation through the Collective Worship group who review the weekly worship in our weekly newsletter.

### **The role of the co-ordinator**

The RE leader is also responsible for Collective Worship. Alongside the Headteacher they plan, evaluate, deliver staff training and share resources. We also have a Church School Working Party which incorporates governors and children.

**Rights of Withdrawal**

At Trinity St Mary's C of E Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussions with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

**Signed on behalf of the governing body:**

**Date:**

**To be reviewed Spring 2025:**