



Treales CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Last Updated	June 24
Updated by	L Hill
Approved by Governing Board	DRAFT
Date to Review	June 25

The purpose of collective worship is to celebrate and explore the Christian values of our school, enabling all members of the school community to participate in a rich and varied experience of high-quality worship. Through our collective worship the Christian ethos of the school will be shared and applied to our daily lives, school routines and relationships. Collective worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as grace before lunch.

The Church of England Heritage

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Our school has strong links with Christ Church Treales. The Vicar and other important members of the church regularly leads worship in Church when the whole school attends weekly and the children attend and participate in worship at Church on Sundays throughout the year.

Collective Worship and Assembly

The school meets together for collective worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from collective worship and parents' right to withdraw their children do not apply.

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils. The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

Aims

To create an environment for worship in which people might be enabled to worship

- Which is enjoyable
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- Understand the significance of Jesus.
- Share in Church Life and Christian practice.
- Celebrate the Festivals and Saint Days of the Church year.
- Help pupils understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
- Show that God is concerned with all areas of life.
- To introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England.
- Learn important and famous prayers of Christianity and of the Anglican Church.
- Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer
- Gain a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life.
- Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
- Develop links with the local Church.
- To contribute to pupils' spiritual development.
- Develop the ability to be still and reflective and use silence creatively.
- Learn to pray in a variety of ways
- Understand what worship is and what people do when they worship.
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation.
- Explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, eg. suffering, loss, death and evil.
- To reflect and express hopes, concerns, joys and sorrows etc.
- Offer opportunities for pupils to build up their relationship with God.
- Explore all that is of value in life — truth, love, goodness, beauty etc.

- To celebrate, take note of and build up the life of the school in the presence of God.
- Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum.
- Build up the sense of community of the school.
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- To contribute to pupils' moral development.
- Explore and reflect on moral issues and concerns.
- Help children reflect on their own values, commitments and beliefs.
- Help them develop behaviour based on Christian values.
- Help them deepen their awareness of the need of others.
- To contribute to the general development of children.
- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills.
- Develop singing ability.
- Participate in group preparation and presentation.
- To look out to the wider world.
- Take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate.
- Celebrate and give thanks for God's world.
- To bring children to faith.
- Encourage a closer relationship with God and Jesus.
- Develop Christian responses to creation and life such as a sense of being created and loved by God; a sense of thankfulness.
- To explore the beliefs of others.
- Listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance.
- Explore values, attitudes and beliefs shared with members of other faith communities.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to Collective Worship and opportunity for practical activities and use of resources. This includes pupils with Special Education Needs. Those whose special needs are physical will be supported appropriately through personnel and modified resources.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equality should permeate all aspects of school life. Our Collective Worship procedures are designed to be accessible to all pupils regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

Our Collective Worship policy is constantly reviewed to celebrate diversity and assumes all cultural groups have contributed to our current practice.

Our Collective Worship policy recognises social action and the need to explicitly address injustice. The voices, ideas and perspectives of the pupils are part of the learning experience.

Organisation and Delivery

Worship is organised in a two-year cycle of weekly themes.

The weekly theme is followed by everyone leading worship. Within the general leading theme there is ample scope for a variety of approaches and aspects or interpretations of the theme.

The present pattern of worship is:

Monday	3pm	Whole school worship in Church
Tuesday	3pm	Class worship
Wednesday	3pm	Whole School Worship
Thursday	3pm	Prayer and Prayer
Friday	3pm	Celebration Worship

Celebration Worship

At this time we celebrate the children's good work. We recognise and praise achievement in school activities and sports and out of school clubs and events. Certificates and badges are awarded for good work, helpfulness, kindness etc. Sports reviews are read and birthdays celebrated. House point totals are announced. Dance, drama, music, readings and the children's class work are used to celebrate the work of the school.

Time

The daily act of worship within the school lasts about twenty minutes and takes place at 3pm everyday.

Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

Creating an atmosphere for worship

Music is used to provide a peaceful, calm atmosphere as children enter or leave. It is also used to match the mood or theme of worship whenever possible. There is a cross on a 'worship table' as a focus for school worship. Children enter and leave the hall in silence. Light is used to signify worship time. A candle is lit for whole school worship as the worship begins and in class worship too a candle is used as a focal point.

Content and Approaches

During each year the following range of content will be included in worship.

General content

- Sharing and taking note of common experience e.g. loss, death, birthdays, jealousy, joy, anger etc.
- Expressing concern for others
- Looking at the world — e.g. developing awe and wonder, exploring mystery and pattern.
- Exploring common values, standards and rules.
- Topical events.
- Celebrating the curriculum.
- Sharing and celebrating children's achievements.
- Stories e.g. faith themes, portraying love and compassion, present truths in story form, myths and legends etc.
- Information about other faiths,
- Distinctive Christian content
- Christian Faith and History.
- Understanding the nature of the Bible
- Old / New Testament stories
- Church Seasons and Festivals
- Stories of Saints and Famous Christians — past and present Church life and worship.
- Christian Beliefs and Values.
- Prayer and God

- Exploring ideas about the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Exploring ideas about prayer — saying and learning prayers
- Hymns and Songs from the Christian tradition.
- Material from the R.E. Syllabus that might not otherwise be covered or that we may wish to reinforce.

Recording

Records of class worship and staff led worship are kept in the teachers' short-term planning.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, although we would actively discourage this due to the fact that worship is at the heart of our ethos and an integral part of school life. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Guidance received from Blackburn Diocese which is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Staff time will be allocated each year to monitor and evaluate the content, organisation and quality of worship.

Staff will evaluate and ensure:

- There is a variety of styles of worship.
- There has been a balance in the leadership between staff, children, visitors, clergy.
- There has been a variety of response from the children. This response will help staff to judge the appropriateness and quality of the school's programme.

Worship Resources

Resourcing school worship is fully discussed by staff and included in the School Development Plan. Friends of Treales or the PCC may be approached for additional funding as appropriate. General resources for worship are located on library shelving in the hall. Each member of staff and the Vicar, has a copy of the cycle and one is displayed in the Staff Room.

Signposting

Children are given information about various activities which they can join in locally or outside Curriculum time. Invitations and advertisements are provided to children and parents for special services and activities at Christ Church Treales.