



Thorndon CofE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: **Governors** Date: **Summer 2022**

Last reviewed **Summer 2022**
on:

Next review due **Summer 2025**
by:

Vision

Our vision is that each child and adult in the school should 'believe and achieve'. Everyone should believe in themselves and in each other to inspire confidence and curiosity, with high quality teaching and learning which cares for all, reflects the love of God and enables all children to flourish. Our vision is underpinned by the school's Christian values (Rainbow Values), what it means to them and how it impacts on life in school.

Aims

As a Church of England School, we hold to a vision that worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where staff and children have the opportunity to experience, learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves.

In our school, Collective Worship enables pupils and staff to gather together for prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings, and we are committed to ensuring that the whole school community is involved. We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith, and we welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in respect and co-operation.

Purpose

Within our provision of Collective Worship we try to meet the following aims for all children:

- Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Enable children to consider social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs or world views.
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforces positive attitudes

Legal Requirements

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Foundation Committee who report to the School Governance Committee (SGC) in consultation with the Headteacher.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Anglian Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our school. We use the following indicators:

- BIBLICAL - the bible is used as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and makes pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer and other verses of scripture.
- LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship – we use the structure of gathering, engaging, responding and sending; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well- known prayers, many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- EUCHARISTIC - we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship in our RE lessons.
- SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals
- SYMBOLIC - we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection
- ECUMENICAL - we work with other local Christian denominations (aspirational)
- DIVERSE - we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g. Kagera.

Our Worship Ambassadors have responsibility for setting up the worship space, gathering the children in collective worship, sending the children from collective worship, leading the school prayer and finishing our day with a prayer in class. They meet regularly each term with our Rector.

We have good links with the local parish church, involving the Rector in leading and joining us for Collective Worship and providing coherence with worship in church.

We visit the parish church as part of the Christian calendar (Harvest, Christmas and Easter) and also for the Leaver's service and other celebration assemblies.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. In our school, we seek to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations, where possible.

We recognise that some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which everyone's integrity is respected and honoured, and in which everyone finds something positive for themselves and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe. This runs alongside the ethos of our Parish Church, which is there to welcome and serve everyone, just as they are.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Head of School, but is delegated to an appropriate member of staff during the week. Members of the Ethos Committee may also be involved in the planning.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each half-term explores a Christian value in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection, and we use the Diocesan Education Team's resources for planning alongside the 'Values for Life' resources as provided by the Church of England.

The Collective Worship Lead ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship.

Organisation

The act of worship is organised across the week differently but an act of Collective Worship is always held daily which may involve the whole school or classes.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Staff lead Values for life Intro	RE lead or Reverend Values for life continued	Singing	In class worship Values for life craft activity	Head of School Celebration Collective Worship

Where collective worship forms part of an assembly e.g. an awards assembly, we will ensure there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering, and always begin with a greeting, and end with a sending and a School Prayer.

Aspects of Collective worship are discussed regularly in staff meetings, WGB meetings and by the Worship Ambassadors. Governors are invited to attend Collective Worship, and special services in church.

Resources

Collective Worship resources are routinely reviewed, including books, access to websites, child-friendly Bibles and good quality music.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

SMSC development is included in acts of Collective Worship as well as being fostered across the whole curriculum. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Executive Headteacher, Worship Ambassadors and the Foundation Governors routinely monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.

Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the Foundation Governors, and reviewed every 3 years.