



# Trinity First School

Living together in a caring community  
Learning together to gain knowledge and grow in  
wisdom

Being together with dignity  
Believing in each other to inspire hope

**Flourishing Together**

## **Collective Worship Policy 2018**

## **Rationale**

The school sees the Act of Worship as an opportunity for teachers and pupils to express praise and thanksgiving to God, sharing concerns and experiences, and affirming the beliefs and values of the Christian community of which they are a part.

## **Introduction**

This policy has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher and staff and endorses the Christian foundation of the school. It should be used as part of Trinity First School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values.

It is inspired by the Church of England Vision for Education, Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, Autumn 2016 and takes account of worship guidelines, "Handbook for leaders of church schools" September 2018

## **Aims and Objectives:**

- To have a clear focus to each act of Collective Worship that will help children understand that there is a spiritual dimension to life. This will be predominately a Christian focus but will include other world religions.
- To encourage children's appreciation of God's creation.
- To develop a sense of curiosity, gratitude and awe, and to encourage natural and spontaneous forms of self-expression which together form the basis of worship.
- To provide a foundation on which children can extend their Christian knowledge and experience, shape their own beliefs and have confidence to express those beliefs.
- To help children understand that they can choose to connect with the love of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit 'in their hearts' and express that love to one another.
- To offer children an opportunity to understand Christian teachings and values and their importance in building a community that is strong, cohesive and tolerant.
- To help children understand the traditions and values of other major religions through the celebrations of key festivals and special days (e.g. Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah etc).
- To help children develop an understanding and tolerance of other faiths.
- To develop a community spirit with a common ethos and shared values; this is also a major way of promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children.
- To encourage participation and response, in reflection, prayer, drama and singing.

## **Principles**

- Acts of worship will be planned to be appropriate and relevant for the age range and ability of the group present, suitable in language and content and will allow for a variety of responses from the children.
- Worship will be led by members of staff, our local vicar, Foundation governors, members of the local Christian community and where possible other faiths, or by our children.
- All those regularly responsible for an act of worship will be given a copy of the calendar of planned themes for collective worship.
- Through our whole school visits to the Parish Church and our class visits to other churches/cathedrals/abbeys, children understand that they are part of the world-wide Christian community.
- Our calendar is planned to take account of the major festivals of the church year and other religious festivals and dates (e.g. Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah etc). Our school's core values are built into the worship calendar which is reviewed annually.
- Each act of collective worship will include many of the following features:
  - the playing of inspiring music, whilst the children enter and sit down quietly, listening and reflecting
  - an inclusive welcome using STC

- the lighting of a candle
- a biblical or moral story
- prayer and reflection time – using school prayers, the Lord’s Prayer and/or prayers from the children
- Singing is given a strong emphasis through all age groups.
- Celebration is a key element especially in our star assemblies, where the whole school and the wider community gathers together to recognise, value and praise the work/achievements of each other.
- Drama and mime are used frequently to bring to life the Bible stories and parables.

### **MONITORING/ASSESSMENT**

- Foundation governors will attend collective worship each term, and will complete an evaluation form (see below) , so that in time, the governing body will see a picture of the collective worship that takes place within the school.
- The RE coordinator will also ensure that classes are able to reflect upon the Collective Worship.

### **Responsibilities**

#### **Governors**

The Foundation governors will attend Collective Worship, at least once a term and provide written evaluations on this. All governors are warmly invited by the school to attend weekly star assemblies and church festivals; this provides them with an opportunity to informally observe worship.

#### **SIAMS Ethos Group**

The SIAMS Ethos group consists of the Foundation governor/s and senior staff. They meet on a termly basis and review the practice and effectiveness of Collective Worship.

#### **Staff**

The Headteacher ensures appropriate planning and training for Collective Worship and together with the RE subject leader, is responsible for the day to day organization of collective worship.

During collective worship, staff members who are present will reflect upon any valuable comments or insights shared by children.

Any concerns regarding radicalisation or indoctrination must be reported to the RE and Collective Worship Leader, as this goes against our school ethos and core values of tolerance and inclusion.

#### **Parents**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and if they wish to do this they must meet with the Headteacher and put their request in writing.

At Trinity First School we recognise the importance of Collective Worship as part of our church school distinctiveness and as an important contributory factor to the life and wellbeing of our school community.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Staff Visited:</b>	
<b>Objectives of visit:</b> In a church school, collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Worship offers everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing those of other faiths or none to be present with integrity</li><li>2. Worship is creative and has variety, for example involving music, story, silence and reflection</li><li>3. It allows opportunity for thoughtful and respectful responses reflecting on behaviour, values and attitudes</li></ol>	
<b>Brief notes:</b>	
<b>Three positive comments:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li><li>3.</li></ol>	
<b>Two questions:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.</li><li>2.</li></ol>	

