

TRIANGLE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

'Stand firm in the faith; be courageous, be strong. Do everything in love.'

Collective Worship Policy

Autumn 2024

Approved by: Chair of Governors **Date:** Autumn 2024

Last reviewed:

Next review due: Spring 2025

1. Statement of Intent

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. Collective Worship is central to Triangle CE Primary School as it strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness and spiritual development of our school and reaffirms our vision and core values. It celebrates the central role that each child to play in the community and is an essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish

2. Aims

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive:

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. We acknowledge that there are pupils and staff in our school that will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational:

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring:

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

3. Related Policies

This policy has been developed in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Education Act 1996
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship
- The Church of England Education Office's "Guidance on Collective Worship in Church of England Schools"

4. Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. Collective Worship is regarded as an essential part of the development of the whole child and as such is recognised by staff and governors as an important part of daily learning. We expect all children to attend but any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

5. Right to Withdraw

Parents have been able to withdraw their children from collective worship since the 1944 Education Act and no recent legislation has affected this right. It is most recently confirmed in Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The government guidance document which remains current in the case of collective worship is Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from collective worship should submit their request in writing to the headteacher.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team

- Ensure that collective worship is planned, resourced, and delivered in line with this policy
- Monitor and evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship
- Provide training and support for staff involved in leading collective worship

Collective Worship Coordinator

- Develop and review the collective worship policy
- Coordinate the planning and delivery of collective worship
- Provide guidance and support to staff involved in leading collective worship
- Monitor and evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship

All Staff

- Actively support the delivery of collective worship
- Contribute to the planning and evaluation of collective worship
- Promote the school's Christian vision and values through their own practice

Pupils

- Participate respectfully in collective worship respecting everyone’s views.
- Contribute to the planning and evaluation of collective worship, where appropriate
- Demonstrate the school's Christian values in their daily lives

Parents and Carers

- Support the school's Christian vision and the importance of collective worship
- Encourage their children to participate respectfully in collective worship

Governors

- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the collective worship policy
- Ensure that collective worship meets the requirements of the law and the school's Christian foundation
- Support the school in maintaining and developing its Christian character

7. Planning and Delivery

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school either as a whole school or in classes. The structure of collective worship varies but usually includes a song, questions, times of silence and prayer.

Collective Worship follows our school vision and values and is based on:

- The half termly value and linked Bible Story
- Religious events and special days
- Special events in the life of the school and wider community

On Fridays, parents are invited to join us in an assembly to celebrate achievements. These allows them to be part of our collective worship and join us as part of the community.

Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Worship – linked to Roots and Fruits Value	Class Worship – The Big Question	Whole School Worship – linked to half termly value	Whole School Worship – led by member of the clergy / hymn practice	Whole School Worship – Celebration Worship

8. Resources

- The school will maintain a range of resources to support the delivery of collective worship, including Bibles, hymn books, and liturgical materials.
- The school will work closely with the local church and diocese to access additional resources and support.
- The school will invest in the professional development of staff involved in leading collective worship.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The collective worship coordinator will regularly monitor and evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship, using a range of methods, such as:
 - Observations of collective worship
 - Pupil and staff feedback
 - Review of planning and resources

The findings of the monitoring and evaluation process will be used to inform future planning and development.

Signed on behalf of Staff Date

Signed on behalf of GovernorsDate