

Tittensor C.E. (VC) First School

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Date: September 2022

Review Date: September 2024



***Pupils reflect on the stories of the bible with specific reference to
'The Good Samaritan' and the 'Prodigal Son,'
which link to the school values.***

Collective Worship at Tittensor CE (VC) First School plays an important part of the life of the school.

It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school.

This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1998 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 may also withdraw from leading and taking part in worship. Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the ethos of the Church. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Reference: DFE circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. (January 1994)

Worship will be

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timing, with a variety of leaders.

- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

Christian Values

We identify the values of Love, Faith, Hope.

These values are regularly referred to in our worships. We also actively encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder, reflection and Global Citizenship.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- To create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- To foster a reverential attitude to God.
- To foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity
- To affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- To enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- To foster and value a search for a faith to live by.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experiences
- To worship together as a school

Management of Collective Worship

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to ensure the ethos of the church, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, Staff and school community. The worship policy created, articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents are also kept informed through the School Website.

The Worship Lead, currently Miss Craig, has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept centrally for whole-school worship so that full records and knowledge of the actual implementation of the worship programme are ensured. Worship is conducted using a set of half-termly themes. These themes ensure that our collective worship is challenging, has variety and is broadly Christian. Reflections of collective worship are kept in the hall and in each class. A weekly 'Worship timetable' ensures that all pupils receive a variety of styles of worship including songs of praise and class (pupil led/pupil participant) worship.

The Worship Lead also keeps in touch with developments in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues and the foundation governor. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an on-going process.

Current Practice

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

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| Monday | The leader is the headteacher, Mr S Allen (Roots and Fruits) |
| Tuesday | Reverend John leads every fortnight and Global Citizenship lead by Miss Turner on alternative weeks. |
| Wednesday | The leader is Miss S Peddie (Songs of Praise). |
| Thursday | Miss Craig leads a values and vision worship. |
| Friday | Class worship, reflection through Thoughts To Make Your Heart Sing. |

Commendation Worship is every month with children and families.

Other types of worship

Holy Communion This happens throughout the year. Pupils who have taken communion before confirmation and adults may join in Eucharist and all may take a blessing.

Church services At special times throughout the year the pupils and parents are invited to join our church family at St Luke's. Pupils take an active role in these services performing, writing prayers and singing songs of praise.

Worship format

The children enter the hall accompanied by music chosen by the Worship Monitors. The worship is opened by a pupil saying the opening response and then a candle is lit by the leader saying 'In the name of the Father, Son and The Holy Spirit.

The children are regularly involved in the worship and also plan and deliver some worship sessions to the school. A hymn is sung and a child often reads a prayer. Children complete the worship by saying a blessing. The candle is then extinguished by a pupil, supervised by the leader. Children then lead out as the Worship Monitors play some more music.

In addition, the school worships in Church at Harvest, Christmas, for Mothering Sunday, Easter, at other agreed times with the Church leaders and at the end of the school year term, to which services parents and members of the local community are invited.

Prayer and reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. There is always time for reflection in school at the beginning and end of worship.

On any occasion the teacher responsible for worship may choose one or more approaches:

- Staff leading Collective Worship are encouraged to include opportunities for prayer, reflection and quiet, personal thought
- The leader is encouraged to use music, flowers, candles, symbols, artefacts to add to the atmosphere

- Children's contributions, both in preparation in the classroom and in actual presentations is especially welcome -this can take the form of drama, dance, poetry, story, puppetry, reading aloud, using visual aids, singing and playing instruments etc.
- Leaders of Worship should not only consider the means and mood of Worship but also the close of the activity. The occasion should have affirmed the school's values and give children something to think about and take into the life of the school.

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 RE. At each stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children in the class.

Signed : _____(Chair of Governors)

Signed: _____(Headteacher)

Signed: _____(Foundation Governors)