

# St. Thomas's C.E. Primary School

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## Collective Worship Policy

St Thomas is a Voluntary Aided School serving children from a broadly Christian background. Our Mission Statement states: At St Thomas CE School we are:

### **Secure in Faith Learning Together**

Collective Worship at St Thomas lies at the heart of school life and helps to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children. It also prepares children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The main emphasis is on the tradition of Christian belief and in the teachings and life of Jesus Christ (in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act) however, we conduct our Acts of Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Some non-Christian elements will be included when it is appropriate or as a response to local or world issues.

Collective Worship will take place every day for every child.

#### **1. AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

1.1 The Aim and Purpose of Collective Worship is:

- To provide an experience in which every child can contribute and gain from.
- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God in the Anglican Heritage.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and values.
- To be part of the whole curriculum, and as such will be a learning experience and a time for sharing individual achievements
- To provide children with a rich repertoire of prayer

Educational- providing the opportunity to:-

- a) celebrate achievements
- b) encourage participation and response
- c) share and experience similarities and differences.
- d) develop a sense of group/family/community identity.
- e) learn how to behave in a social gathering
- f) create a context within which all school members can be joined by members of the wider community.
- g) contribute to the Religious Education of all children and provide them with the necessary information to make informed choices later in life.
- h) have a sense of occasion.
- i) teach children how to worship.

1.2 Collective Worship will aim to complement the ethos and contribute to the visions and aims of the Mission Statement and R.E. teaching throughout the school. It will support the moral as well as the spiritual development of the children and reinforce positive attitudes and gospel values.

## 2. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

2.1. To provide the children with a variety of approaches to Collective Worship all teaching staff will lead the Collective Worship. Clergy and Lay Readers from St Thomasø Church and other invited people will also take lead worship.

2.2 There is a daily act of Collective Worship, but the groupings are varied, incorporating the whole school, or separate Key stage, or class worship.

2.3 Each act of Collective Worship begins with a welcome greeting:

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
The Lord be with you <b>And also with you</b>	God is good <b>All the time</b> All the time <b>God is good</b>	This is the day that the Lord has made <b>Let us rejoice and be glad in it</b>	The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you <b>And also with you</b>	Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ Be with you <b>And also with you</b>	Lord in your love <b>Walk beside us</b>

Worship will include some of the following opportunities and experiences-:

- Time for reflection
- Time to be still
- Time to be silent
- Opportunities for Prayer
- Opportunities for Praise
- Opportunities for reading from the Bible and other sacred books
- Opportunities to see and take part in some of the rituals of the Anglican Church
- Opportunities to hear readings from other sources e.g. inspirational poems and stories
- Opportunities to sing (hymns or other songs)
- Opportunities for Thanksgiving
- Opportunities for Celebration
- Opportunities for Remembering
- Opportunities to use the senses
- Opportunities to listen to music religious and other, played when entering and leaving the hall

Shared experience of:

- Awe and Wonder
- Spiritual Uplift
- Pride
- Sadness and Loss
- The expected and the unexpected

2.4 Every term there will be opportunities for class-led Worship to which parents are invited.

Parents are also invited to the Special Acts of worship that are organised for Harvest, Christmas, and Easter. In addition to this, parents are invited to attend an Awards and Leaver's Service when the Year Six children are presented with a gift from church and other awards.

Acts of Worship are also organised to celebrate special occasions and events in the life of people involved in school.

2.5 Governors, parents and members of St Thomas's Church are welcome to attend any of the Acts of Worship that take place in school as we consider this to reflect the ethos of our school where parents and the community are seen to have an important role in the education of the whole child.

2.6 The children make regular visits to Church and take part in services held there, e.g.

a) The whole School visits once a year for our Harvest service

b) Y2 children and staff lead a Carol Service in church.

c) Y6 children attend Thursday Eucharist service in March

d) Some children and staff join with the congregation for other special services e.g. Education Sunday.

### **3. PRAYERS**

All children are taught a core of traditional prayers including:

The Lord's Prayer

The Grace

The School Prayer

Grace (Thanksgiving for Food)\*

Dismissal prayer\* (Children's own prayers or class prayer)

\*These are said in class every day

### **4. PLANNING FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

4.1 Collective Worship is seen as an integral, though unique and special, part of each child's education and as such, must be carefully planned, prepared, presented, resourced and evaluated.

The responsibility for Collective Worship lies ultimately with the Governing Body in consultation with the Head teacher.

4.2 An annual plan of broad themes is produced by the Collective Worship leader, in consultation with the priests in charge and the LMT. These themes reflect the traditions of the Christian Faith and mark the events of the Christian calendar and major world faith festivals. There is, however flexibility to respond to current local or world events. The themes are adapted by the person delivering the Collective Worship.

4.3 Children plan and lead worship in KS2 during class worship time. The Ethos team support staff and children in planning and leading worship.

## **5. RESOURCES**

5.1 Resources for delivering Collective Worship are purchased out of the budget allowance set aside for this each year to ensure that they are up to date and relevant.

## **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

6.1 Care must be taken during worship when a lit candle is used. It is the responsibility of the adult leading the worship to ensure that the candle is extinguished at the end of worship and that the matches or lighter used to light them are kept safely out of reach of children and returned to safe storage after the time of worship.

## **7. RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

7.1 We expect all children to attend all acts of Collective Worship. However, the right to withdraw a child from Collective Worship, as made explicit in the School Prospectus, may be exercised after discussion with the Head teacher and the Chair of Governors. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the worship. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

## **6. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

6.1 This will be undertaken by the ex officio or Diocesan Governor and the Collective Worship leader.

6.2 Children are given a voice to comment on worship during designated time at the end of the session supported by the Ethos team and during Subject Leader interviews. Class and Visitors' comments sheets are used after Special Acts of Worship for any children/visitors who wish to contribute.

6.3 The Collective Worship leader attends worship led by other staff members throughout the school as part of the evaluation process.

6.4 A review of the Worship themes will be an annual agenda item

6.5 This Policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

**Date of Policy: December 2010**

**Reviewed: December 2017**

**Next review: December 2019**