



SECURE IN FAITH, LEARNING TOGETHER
YOUR WORD IS A LAMP FOR MY FEET, A LIGHT ON MY PATH.
PSALM 119 VERSE 105

Collective Worship Policy

Agreed: June 2019
Review: June 2021

St Thomas' is a Voluntary Aided School serving children from a broadly Christian background. Our Mission Statement states that 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: Explore, Encounter, Experience

1.1

- To stimulate the spiritual development of children and staff
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To explore a sense of the sacred and allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- To enable the children to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To offer children a chance for reflection and quiet approach to the school values of Forgiveness, Respect, Service and Truthfulness
- To worship in an open and honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and The Bible
- To explore ideas about God and have a personal relationship with God
- To enable worship to impact on all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles
- To introduce the children to the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and saints days
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day providing opportunities to experience quiet and stillness
- To provide opportunity for all to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which might include praise, forgiveness and intercession
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a contemporary school Christian community

- To provide opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing children together to celebrate shared Christian values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment and our local, national and international community
- To ensure the physical and mental health of children and staff is part of the worship and religious ethos of the school

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 Thomas' 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 And also with you	God is good All the time All the time God is good	This is the day that the Lord has made Let us rejoice and be glad in it	The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you And also with you	Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ Be with you And also with you	Lord in your love Walk beside us

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' Church are welcome to attend 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.

2.7 There is an established worshipping community based at school: SAT FM. The group meet to worship fortnightly on a Saturday.

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' 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 worship plan 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 Each week is organized around a Bible reading with opportunities to Look Up (look in The Bible), Look In (what does this mean to me) and Look Out (examples of it in the world we live in)

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.

4.4 The ethos team meet with the teams from the Parish hub to plan and deliver worship on a termly basis.

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.

8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

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

8.2 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.

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

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

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

Date of Policy: June 2019

Next review: June 2021