



Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School

www.tarletonholytrinity.org

Collective Worship Policy (updated February 2023)

POLICY



*Tarleton Holy Trinity
Church of England (Aided) Primary
School*



Collective Worship Policy

At Tarleton Holy Trinity, School Worship is central to all that we do. Our School Worship permeates all our relationships, all our curriculum and how we live our lives. Our School Worship reflects the Christian ethos and vision statement of our school and the living relationship that exist between God and the whole school community.

Our vision is that all our children will:

Value... Dream... Achieve...

As a loving Christian family, our aspiration is for all pupils to flourish, safe in the belief that we, "...can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us" Phil 4:13.

Everyone is valued, we all achieve and our dreams for the future begin.



Philosophy

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150v6

Collective Worship in Tarleton Holy Trinity C of E Primary School is of the highest quality and strongly reflects the school’s distinctive theologically rooted Christian vision which enables our pupils and adults to flourish. We believe that our Collective Worship is *invitational, inclusive and inspirational* through immersion of theology, philosophy and social science.

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

We recognise the historic foundation and the school preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all its pupils.

Collective Worship is at the heart of daily life.

We consider our Collective Worship to be at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ education and spiritual development. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The Worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of Worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as Graces before lunch.

Forms of Worship within the Church of England differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to Worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the varied practices in the world-wide living Christian Church and have regular visitors from other denominations, other faiths and non-faiths. Our school culture is characterised by justice and responsibility.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and will be helped to explore them.

These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, brought hope and restored humanities relationship with God;
- The central values of unconditional love, awe and wonder, friendship, peace, trust, respect, justice and forgiveness;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer and different forms of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year

School, staff and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils’ spiritual flourishing.

Worship at Tarleton Holy Trinity gives the whole school community the opportunity to praise, give thanks to God together and to share quiet moments of reflection in a busy school day expressing the living relationship that exists between God and our whole school community.

Our Church and Ministry (Fr Mark, Fr Tristan and Danny Abram) have a key role in developing and delivering our Collective Worship. The Church is used regularly for Acts of Collective Worship. The Priest and Ordinand deliver a weekly Act of Worship within Tarleton Holy Trinity. The school has close links with Parishioners and Church Wardens.

During the Church's year we share in the Worship at the Church with the local community and the local community is welcomed to Worship in Church with the school during the school year. The School Worships in Church at least termly depending on the Church calendar e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter, Ascension Day, weekly during Lent and for school celebrations.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

The rich Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development and spiritual life of pupils. The provision of collective Worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

School Worship and the delivery of the religious Education curriculum are kept mainly separate but elements of each follow the Christian year, our Christian Values and Vision and the Big Story of the Bible so will be interconnected.

Responsibility for the policy

The policy was reviewed after consultation with the Headteacher, the teaching staff and the Ministry. The RE and Worship lead, Laura Seeley, is the lead person responsible for the implementation of the policy in the school.

The aims of our Collective Worship

- To contribute to the Vision Statement and the aims of the school.
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to Worship
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To prepare the pupils and adults for citizenship in today's diverse society and empower them to have an informed opinion.
- To develop links with the local Church and to introduce pupils to the Worship heritage of the Church of England.
- To Worship God through Jesus Christ.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils and support their spiritual journey
- To experience and understand the central place of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.
- To make Worship open and accessible to all pupils.

Worship at Tarleton Holy Trinity aims to be **Invitational, Inclusive and Inspirational**.

Within our Collective Worship we **EXPLORE** those questions which are important to everyone. This includes:

- Reflecting on developing a relationship with God, exploring the teachings of the Bible, prayer, the values of love and chosen Christian values and others.
- Thinking about what Worship is and what people do when they Worship; what it means to have faith; the faith of others; moral issues and concerns; personal values; commitments and beliefs.
- Reflecting on what it means to put God at the heart of school life.

Within our Collective Worship we **ENCOUNTER** a faith which is alive. This would include:

- Christianity in action as a living World faith - examples of courageous advocates of today living a life of self-sacrifice and obedience to God's plan for their lives.
- Thinking about the meaning of Worship; the nature of God as revealed in Jesus; reflective silence; the awe and wonder of God and creation and a relationship with God.

Within our collective Worship we **EXPERIENCE** the joy of celebrating God's love. This includes:

- Sharing Worship, Church life and Christian practice,
- God's concern for all people in all areas of life and a chance to respond with compassion.
- Participating in and leading Worship.
- Being a part of the school family, sharing the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.

Our Worship will have a real sense of Gathering, Engagement, Response, Sending (including a reflection and a takeaway) and of tangible impact.

'And you will love your Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Mark 12 v.30-31

Organisation and Delivery

Though Worship is not designated as curriculum time under current regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to, instructed, asked to listen to a reading or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting detail of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading Worship through story, drama and music or through prayer. The Faith Advocates from Year Six have weekly meetings to plan, deliver and evaluate some of the Worships. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, Worship and learning are seen as a seamless whole, and teachers and children often follow up class Worship with activities in class.

Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. This Worship takes place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage and grouped classes. Worship usually takes place at a variety of times during the day.

At Tarleton Holy Trinity, Worship:

- Takes place at:
 - Monday, 9.05am (Whole School, SLT/SMT member)
 - Tuesday, 9.05am (Worship Praise, staff member)
 - Wednesday, 9.05am (Whole school, led by Father Mark/SLT member)
 - Thursday, 9.05am (Class Worship, led by Faith Advocates and class teachers)
 - Friday 2:55pm (Celebration Worship with parents and SLT/SMT member)
- Usually last around 25 minutes.
- Is introduced to the children as they walk in with music, reflective pictures, links to God's Big Story through The Big Frieze artwork and Bible verses.
- Uses religious banners, an altar table with a cross, Bible, Trinity candles and liturgical seasonal cloth.
- Is distinguished from assemblies due to the use of candles, prayers and an opening Christian response.

Content and Approaches

Worship is planned on a three year cycle and with consultation with the Ministry. Although there are themes for each week during the school year, the Church year will also be observed and a bank of Acts of Worship which may be needed for special times is available.

Although weekly Worship is planned, we respect and allow the need for spontaneity. The Acts of Worship will be adult and/or pupil led. These may include the telling of stories, role play, the use of visual aids, the playing of special music and elements of drama. We aim to make connections to current events where possible and to past and present courageous advocates.

Resources

Our main resource is the Parish Church, although other resources the school often use are the 'Big Start Assemblies', 'Roots and Shoots', Understanding Christianity and 'Picture News'.

Physical materials are kept in the RE cupboard, library and Worship area. They are always available to teaching staff and to the pupils.

The School often uses the Outdoor Reflection Area and pop up prayer spaces such as the gazebo.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review of impact

The Worship Leader is the person responsible for the management of Collective Worship in the school.

Worship is planned and co-ordinated at the beginning of each term by the Worship Leader and in conjunction with the Ministry, staff, Faith Advocates, pupils and the Faith Group (THT, Mere Brow and Rufford School).

Faith advocates lead Worships on a Thursday, pupils are asked to help organise acts of Worship on a regular basis and Key Stage Two classes plan and deliver a Worship based on their Class Christian Value.

The Ministry lead an act of Worship each week in school or in Church. Records of all Acts of Worship are kept in the Worship file on the Teacher Drive and in the Faith Advocates file in the RE cupboard.

At Tarleton Holy Trinity:

- Pupils and adults feedback their answers and opinions on the weekly Act of Worship in the Worship area on post-it notes, books or via their class teacher.
- Termly reviews, mainly through children's voice and parental questionnaires, monitor and evaluate the quality and content of Collective Worship. The Headteacher feeds back to Governors on an annual basis.
- This policy is reviewed every two years.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

Collective Worship in Church schools is governed by both the 1944 and the 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed. Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This Worship may take place in various groupings and may take place at any time during the school day.

Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the School Prospectus. The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and Religious Education cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors and possibly with advice from Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures will be instituted and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

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Document reviews

We are aware of the need to review our school's documents regularly so that we can take account of: new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology etc.

This policy was reviewed in February 2023

and will be reviewed in February 2025.

Signed by:

Member of staff responsible for this policy

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Governor responsible for this policy

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