



Collective Worship

2022-2023

Date policy reviewed: Sept 2023

St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy

Introduction:

Our collective worship is an important time of the day where our community will feel the school's pulse, learn about its values and catch its life. It is here that a sense of community is nourished, here that shared values are expressed and here that everyone's contributions are celebrated. In our school, it is also here that God is given honour and is worshipped. Our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Rationale:

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity. Worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplify the principles of Christian hospitality, meeting the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief. It will give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. It should motivate pupils and adults into thinking differently, inspiring them to become courageous advocates of causes.

Aims

Through our collective worship, we aim to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Principal and the worship co-ordinator through: observing children's engagement, seeking feedback from the children and holding regular conversations with colleagues. Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship. This will take place on a termly cycle.

The Principal, governors and staff will review this policy every year. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Content:

Worship at St Thomas' is Inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive- Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. Space is created to consent and dissent and participate and stand back. Careful consideration is taken with the language used to avoid assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Worship involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community with pupils planning and leading different aspects of it.

Invitational –There is no compulsion to do anything. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths or no faiths to be present and engage with integrity. Pupils are invited to pray if they wish to and are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer is accompanied with a time of reflection. Traditional and modern Christian music is used with careful consideration given to how it connects with the theme and how it will best suit the spiritual life of the community.

Inspiring-Worship at St Thomas' is formational and transformational. It encourages pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. The aim is to motivate pupils and adults into thinking differently and inspiring them to become courageous advocates of causes. It also encourages them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and philosophical convictions.

The worship at St Thomas' follows a clear structure that enables adults and pupils to focus on the theme. Staff are supported with the planning of this using www.worshipworkshop.org.uk website. Quiet reflective is used to set the atmosphere for worship. This is followed by a greeting then a bible reading. An engaging resource is used followed by a time of response. There is then time for prayer and sending out. Music or a song is used at the most appropriate place in the worship.

Over the week, the windows, mirrors and doors approach is used for the content of the teaching. (See the SMSC policy)

The local church leads our school in worship each week. This is on a different theme discussed and agreed by the worship lead. This links with the worship that is also delivered by the local school in the wider community.

Visitors:

Each visitor is personally communicated with by the collective worship co-ordinator or a member of the SLT. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions made as to the content of each act of collective worship. Should any problems occur with an act of collective worship the head undertakes to deal with these in liaison with the coordinator. A personal letter of thanks is sent at the end of each term.

School Collective Worship Planning:

At St Thomas', our worship follows a two-year cycle where children focus on different Christian values. The school's own vision and values is weaved throughout the cycle of wider values. We focus on key Christian figures and heroes in the Bible. There is also a central focus on the teachings of Jesus and the bible which includes and involves all pupils, regardless of age, ability, religion or culture. It also, at certain times, reflects the diversity of beliefs within the school, valuing the practices and traditions of others who are a part of the school community, as well as other important times of celebration for wider religious communities. We ensure that pupils are taught about the eucharist at least twice a year. The long term plan, following the Imaginor roots and shoots and the 'Windows, mirrors and doors' approach, is used to support our worship.

Extra-Curricular and Off-Site Opportunities:

Pupils and adults link with school in the wider community plan, prepare and lead worship. Other settings also lead worship for pupils at St Thomas'. This may be either through visits or provided virtually.

Pupils in school take part in events organised by churches and the diocese. They plan and prepare their piece which is then built into a wider schedule.

The school works closely with the local church and has opportunities to visit the church and take an active part in worship there.

The school's website provides a range of materials if parents/carers need more information about worshipping with their child at home.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship:

At St Thomas' we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/SLT member followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time. All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in St Thomas' CE(A) Primary.

Approved and signed off by:

Principal: Louise Fry

Chair of Governors:

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Long-Term Plan (2 year rolling programme)

The school vision and values (thankfulness, fairness, trust, forgiveness and celebration) will be foundational throughout. We also celebrate key national and international dates throughout the year as well as the saints days and celebrations from religious festivals. We also will be responsive to relevant key world events as they arise.

Collective Worship Long-Term Plan

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A Our school values of: Thankfulness, trust, forgiveness, fairness and celebration will weave throughout.	Thankfulness	Advent and Christmas	Courage	Forgiveness	Friendship	Miracles of Jesus
Key Figures Demonstrating the Value	Chris Pratt	Mary Seacole	Bear Grylls	Nelson Mandela	Firmino baptism (Liverpool player)	
Heroes in the bible	Hannah and Samuel	Isaiah	Queen Esther	Peter	Jonathan and David	
Key Dates/Events	Macmillan Coffee Morning Harvest	Bonfire Night Remembrance Day Anti-bullying Christmas	Epiphany Chinese New Year	Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday/Lent Easter World Book Day Mother's Day Palm Sunday	Ascension day Pentecost	Father's Day World Environment Day
Year B Our school values of: Thankfulness, trust, forgiveness, fairness and celebration will weave throughout.	Generosity	Compassion	Perseverance	Holy Week and Easter	The Parables of Jesus	Respect
Key Figures Demonstrating the Value	Elizabeth Fry	Mother Theresa	Lewis Hamilton	Guyton B		Martin Luther King
Heroes in the bible	Elijah and the widow	Joseph	Moses	Thomas		Paul(Saul)
Key Dates/Events	Macmillan Coffee Morning Harvest	Bonfire Night Remembrance Day Diwali Hanukkah Anti-bullying Christmas	Epiphany Chinese New Year	Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday/Lent Easter World Book Day Mother's Day Palm Sunday	Ascension day Pentecost	Father's Day World Environment Day

Appendix 2

Collective Worship Timetable

Day	Worship
Monday	Celebration assembly. This is the opportunity for the community to gather together to celebrate achievements.
Tuesday	Worship– focus on 'windows'
Wednesday	Worship – focus on 'mirrors'
Thursday	Worship – focus on 'doors'
Friday	Family worship led by visitors and St Thomas' church

Worship takes place daily and lasts for 15 mins. The community, including pupils, make meaningful contributions where they bring their own experiences and ideas. It is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It is planned using the steps from the worship planner on www.worshipworkshop.org.uk

Each class in school will lead a whole class worship once a year. This is an opportunity to plan, prepare, lead and evaluate a worship session to share with the community.

At Easter, collective worship is held at the local church. Other key timetabled events take place as a whole school and different classes add their own contributions.

Where children are withdrawn from collective worship, alternative activities are provided elsewhere in the school