



Collective Worship

Date policy written: June 2025

Date policy to be reviewed: June 2026

Signed by	Date
Headteacher:	
Trust:	

St Thomas' CofE Primary Academy

'Learning for Life with Jesus'

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 and therefore agents of change for the future.

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 Senior Leadership Team (SLT) 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.

A yearly worship overview is written annually by the Principal and in conjunction with St Thomas' Church. This is reviewed and adapted half termly if required. (See Appendix 1 and 2)

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, Roots and Fruits, Picture News Plus and a range of other resources. 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 (St Thomas') leads our school in worship each week, usually on a Friday. This is on a different theme discussed and agreed by the Principal. 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 Principal 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.

School Collective Worship Planning:

At St Thomas', our worship follows a bi-yearly 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.

All classes plan and hold one Inspire workshop at St Thomas' Church in conjunction with Reverend Iain once a year. These are planned in advance and dates communicated to parents at the beginning of the new academic year. Our Inspire workshops are an opportunity to engage in 'craft base' activities in Church linked to a liturgical event or Bible reading. This is a wonderful opportunity for the school, families and church to work together as a community flourishing in faith.

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: Donna Pierpoint (Head of School)

Chair of Governors: David Shemilt

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Long-Term Plan

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.



St Thomas' CofE Academy Annual plan for Worship 2025 - 2026



	Autumn 1: Thankfulness	Autumn 2: Fairness	Spring Forgiveness	Summer 1: Trust	Summer 2: Celebration
Church of England's Vision for Education	Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills	Educating for dignity and respect	Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills Educating for community and living well together	Educating for hope and aspiration	
Spiritual Development	World and Beauty	Self	Others	Beyond	
British Values	Democracy	Respect and Tolerance	Rule of Law	Individual Liberty	
RRSA key articles					



St Thomas' CofE Academy Annual plan for Worship 2025 - 2026



Autumn 1: Thankfulness								
Week & Colour of cloth in reflection area.	Week 1 01.09.2025	Week 2 08.09.2025	Week 3 15.09.2025	Week 4 22.09.2025	Week 5 29.09.2025	Week 6 06.10.2025	Week 7 13.10.2025	Week 8 20.10.2025
Monday Whole-school collective worship, led by DP and Worship Council.	INSET day	PSHE Worship JA - introduction to whole school key theme Being Me in My World	School mission - KAB	<u>Peace</u> - DP	UNICEF RRSA - Update/ Impact of the ABCDE of rights JA	Black History Month AT	Harvest - Whole School Celebration - DP	Democracy (BV) DP
Tuesday Staff on a rota linked to the over-arching theme using 'Roots and Fruits' resource	INSET day	DP to lead whole school worship introducing Key Value - Thankfulness	A. Tomkins - Roots and Fruits Thankfulness	National recycle week - KAB and Eco Council Theme: Rescue Me! Recycle. What is a perfect world? Why is there ugliness in the world?	L. Conway Roots and Fruits	M Haycock & School Council World Mental Health Day (Fri 10 th)	Picture News Special Zoom link - in classrooms Black History Month	E. Knobbs Roots and Fruits
Wednesday Class worship	Whole school welcome <u>back</u> . <u>Worship</u> in hall - DP	Using Picture News Plus - To be devised and sent out by DP Use Picture News resources to aid discussion, reflection and What would Jesus do? What is Jesus trying to teach us through this global news/ action? How can we live like Jesus and make a difference? Link with our other values and UN <u>rights</u> - weekly link.						
Thursday Whole-school celebration	Class based worship today - Introduce new Gospel Value in class/ reflection area. Write new year prayers and reintroduce prayer boxes.	Celebrate whole-school <u>achievements</u> - lead by Mrs Buggy/ Mrs Tomkins and pupil leaders on a BI weekly basis						
Friday Worship led by St Thomas' church	Whole School Vision Day - Rev IB to lead worship on Schools Vision John 10:10	John 1:1-5 The Words was with God is God	John 1:9-13 Light and the Sons of God	John 1:19-34 John the Baptist	Harvest	No Friday Worship	John 2:13-25 Clearing the temple	John 4: 1-45 The Woman at the Well

Our full worship overview can be found here

<https://www.stthomascofeacademy.org/page/?title=Worship&pid=113>

Appendix 2

Collective Worship Timetable

Day	Worship
Monday	Worship – Led by Head of School following the worship Overview
Tuesday	Worship– Led by a staff member following the worship overview. This is bi-weekly songs and praise.
Wednesday	Class Worship – lead by staff using Picture News Plus worship resources. (Global news and faith in action)
Thursday	Celebration Worship – This is the opportunity for the community to gather to celebrate achievements. This is lead by our Deputy Head of School or our Associate Assistant Principal in conjunction with school staff.
Friday	Family worship led by visitors and St Thomas' church. Followed by coffee and community engagement.

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, Roots and Fruits, Picture News Plus or other resources.

At Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and the end of the year collective worship is held at the local church – St Thomas' (where possible). 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

Appendix 3



School Prayer

Dear Lord,
Help me to be thankful for all the blessings you have
given me.
Help me to show forgiveness and fairness to all those I
meet.
In trust Lord, I offer you my day today, to let you
show me the way.
Amen