

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour and my hope is in you all day long."

Our vision is to:

- *Love our learning.*
- *Know that God is with us, loves us and has a plan for us.*
- *Make the world a better place.*

We aim high and have self-belief
We have community spirit
We are enterprising
We have enquiring minds
We are respectful

Collective worship is a time where we come together as a community to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school and our mission statement, *'Developing a love of learning in a Christian environment' as well as supporting our school aims which are aiming high and Self-belief, Community spirit, Enterprise, Enquiry and Respect.*

The contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We have an active **Worship Council** made up of a group of pupils who lead on worship in school.

Collective Worship Intent.

- 1) To help each child look at his/her relationship with God, with others, with the world and with the church.
- 2) To encourage each child to explore his/her own spirituality.
- 3) To further each child's emotional, cultural and moral development.
- 4) To develop each child's sense of awe and wonder.
- 5) To promote a sense of togetherness, belonging and shared values within the school family.
- 6) To develop a sense of worth
- 7) To reflect elements of Anglican Liturgy within our school acts of worship.

Implementation of Collective Worship

Themes for our Collective Worship at Tankersley reflect Christian beliefs, values and attitudes. They are presented in a way that is relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes, backgrounds and experiences. The themes for some of our Collective worship are derived from the **ROOTS AND FRUITS themed book of Christian values** (with a key value as a focus for the term e.g. Generosity, Trust, Thankfulness etc)

These values are embodied in the commandment that Jesus gave:

John 13:34-35

"..Love one another. As I have loved you. So you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

The main Christian festivals and other days in the liturgical year are included in the themes e.g. *Harvest* etc.

Collective Worship in our school reflects traditions of worship in the Christian Church, containing elements of praise, prayer, teaching, thanks and participation

Much of the teaching aspect is achieved through story, poetry, drama, art, events in the news or aspects of daily life – at home and at school. Individual acts of Collective worship usually contain a time for hymns/songs, music and prayer.

Prayer and reflection are key parts of our worship may include formal prayers, children's own prayers or silent reflection. These may focus on thanks and praise, prayers for ourselves and/or prayers for others, and saying sorry. Prayers are also shared in class at key points in the school day

There is an altar table at the front containing a Bible, three candles (to represent the Holy Trinity) and a cross. At the beginning of the whole school acts of worship the candles are lit to represent the presence of God.

The colour of the cloth on the altar is changed to represent the time in the liturgical year.

For the main celebrations (Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) Collective Worship complements work done in the classroom.

Pupil involvement

We encourage pupil involvement and participation in all acts of worship, both within the act of worship but also taking on roles and responsibilities in preparation and delivery.

We have a **Worship Council**, made up of four Year 6 pupils, who meet regularly to lead and oversee the worship in school and provide a strong pupil voice within our worshipping community.

Our worship council take an active role in leading daily Collective Worship. They will always introduce the worship and often contribute their own prayers. They also operate the PowerPoint and music for songs, as well recording the theme of that day's act of worship in a book, which is kept in the hall.

All the children participate in class presentations as part of our Harvest and Easter worship Services. Each class from year one upwards is represented in giving the readings as part of our Christmas and Easter services.

Year 6 pupils actively participate in the Leaver's Service at the end of the school year. A prayer labyrinth is also organised by the 'Hand to Mouth' Christian group during the Summer term.

Pupils also participate in daily class prayers at key points in the school day.

Organisation of Collective Worship.

Every day **all pupils in school are involved in acts of Collective Worship**. Although there is not a formal act of worship in the Nursery, children do listen to stories with a moral, sing and say prayers every day.

Acts of worship are led by the Senior leadership team and members of teaching staff.

Two Mondays each month are led by Canon Hale.

Our current pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday: Whole school worship led by Canon Hale or the SLT linked to whole school ethos and vision and/or theme of the half term from Roots and Fruits

Tuesday: Whole school hymn and singing worship, with a prayer and reflection time. This may alternate with a worship linked to our Global & sustainability work and picture news.

Wednesday: Y1-Y6 worship led by the Worship Council linked to whole school vision and aims, key events in the Church year and the Bible.

Thursday: Class Bible Study where children read and discuss passages from the Bible. Children are encouraged to reflect on the passage and consider what it means to them. Children also have a slot to visit the Shalom Garden at least once a term and have a half-termly slot to use the Superbook app on the iPads.

Friday: Whole school Sparkle and Shine worship led by the headteacher. In this act of worship pupil achievements are celebrated and sense of worth developed. Teachers nominate two pupils who have done something worthy of celebrating; this might be linked to behaviour or their work or something that has contributed positively to school life. On planned occasions a Sparkle and Share worship is held to celebrate learning in a key subject area as part of our Subject on the Spotlight.

Links with St Peter's Church

At Tankersley we have firm links with St Peter's Church and school services are held there four times a year: Harvest, Christmas and Easter and in the Summer, the Leavers' service is held in church. Members of the congregation at St Peters' are always welcome and parents are also invited to join us.

Cannon Hale leads Collective Worship every 2 weeks in school linked to a Christian / Biblical theme.

Members of the congregation have also been involved in offering opportunities for reflection and spiritual development for the pupils by helping to run prayer labyrinths alongside visitors who we have invited into school.

Resources/Settings

We recognise the importance of making collective worship different to the rest of the school day. We aim to provide a different setting within familiar surroundings by using music and a focus e.g. Cross and candle on Altar table.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parent wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

Equal opportunities and Special Needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to and be welcomed in our acts of collective worship. Where necessary, pupils will be supported to remove any barriers that could prevent them from accessing and participating fully in an act of worship.

Impact

A book is kept recording the details of each act of worship. This is completed by the pupils in the Worship Council but should be checked by the member of staff leading. There is also a space for evaluations to be recorded here.

Children enjoy participating in worship and appreciate having the space to reflect on their own spirituality, and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.