

Collective Worship Policy

Worship is...

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.
It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.***

Purpose

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Tilstock CE Primary School. As a church school we place great importance on the coming together for Christian worship, as it offers an opportunity for all to explore the distinctive Christian beliefs that underpins our Christian character. We hope that the stories and messages shared will guide the children in their choices and provide them with opportunities for debate and reflection. By working with members of the Diocese and our local church, we hope to provide all pupils with the ability to communicate with and develop a love of God. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

Aims

Our aims of collective worship are to:

- celebrate Christian values, vision and ethos
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- enable children and members of the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of faith
- provide worship in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- come together as a community and express thoughts, feelings and beliefs to develop personal and spiritual growth
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit
- for all to learn more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- to provide opportunity for members to reflect on their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others and promote charitable works
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them;
- provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- enable pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- celebrate achievements of members of the school

Management and Organisation

The Headteacher has responsibility for managing Collective Worship. Themes are planned for each half term and shared with parents and pupils. Planning is supported by members of the clergy, pupils, staff and parents. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Monday 10:15-10:30 Mr Spicer

Tuesday 10:15-10:30 Miss Goff

Wednesday 10:15-10:30 Key Stage Assembly

Thursday 1:05-1:30pm Church

Friday 3-3:15pm Celebration Assembly

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

The right of withdrawal.

We aim for our collective worships to be inclusive and educational for all, regardless of faith. At Tilstock CE Primary we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the Headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life.

It is hoped and prayed that through our Collective Worship, children will be encouraged to live the Gospel values.

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