

The Federation of Holy Trinity Church of England Schools

Collective Worship Policy

'Loved by God and one another, Holy Trinity is a welcoming community of faith, where we learn and flourish together.'

Each day opens up horizons of hope, aspiration and joy!



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Policy Revisit	February 2026	
Policy Review	October 2026	

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School is committed to creating ‘a welcoming community of faith’ where we learn and flourish together. The school recognises, as with all areas of the curriculum, Collective Worship should be a valid educational experience, and that, as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act, the nature of the Collective Worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. As an Anglican Church school our daily act of Collective Worship is fundamental to our Christian ethos.

Definition of Collective Worship

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, we understand “collective worship” as an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective Worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to our school ethos. To “take part” in Collective Worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion. Collective Worship is an invitation to everyone to take an active part in our worship.

Ethos

Collective Worship is a time for sharing and togetherness, a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experiences. Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements and challenges together. Collective Worship is an important part of our school life as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate, as well as encouraging our pupils to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Our worship promotes Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. It is a time when we foster a sense of belonging to our school, to the wider community of Ripon and to the global society and world in which we live. It is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. All members of our community are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum.

Within our Collective Worship there is an invitation to worship God. In our school this will involve leading people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish. Our worship is inclusive, inspirational and invitation no matter where it is held or who is leading.

Inclusive: something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with.

Inspirational: a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports our school community’s spiritual development.

Invitational: an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.

Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils’ age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. If a parent is considering withdrawing their child from Collective Worship, they should make contact with the Headteacher in writing. However, it is hoped that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act. This includes the school continuing to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from Collective Worship.

Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our schools. We use the following indicators:

BIBLICAL The Bible is used to encounter the teachings of Jesus and as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.

LITURGICAL Aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

EUCCHARISTIC We introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship, either in RE or through our own school celebration with the local clergy.

SEASONAL We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

SYMBOLIC We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.

ECUMENICAL We work with other local Christian denominations.

DIVERSE We provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g., through valuing both meditation and silence, dance, prayer, reflection, story, quiet songs and louder expressions of praise.

At Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, we seek to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with thought given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music. We foster links with Holy Trinity, our parish Church, involving clergy in leading / joining us for Collective Worship and providing coherence with worship in church. We visit Holy Trinity at least every half term as part of the Christian calendar and to offer the opportunity for our pupils to experience worship in the wider church as well as attending Diocese events.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. At Holy Trinity, we work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective worship. Within our Collective Worship the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We recognise that some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which no-one's integrity is compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves, and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

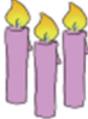
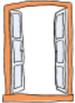
There are two aspects to daily our worship;

Daily Reflection This is a spiritual opportunity where the whole school is invited to reflect on their beliefs, thoughts or to contemplate in silence. A planned stimulus is provided from a range of music; exploring core Christian values; art; Picturing Christianity resources; Picture News; national or global events and sing and praise.

A Collective Worship. We conduct worship in a calm and respectful way. Collective Worship time is a period of tranquility and reflection. All pupils are expected to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings. All pupils are invited to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Organisation

Our worship is structured to help pupils understand the Anglican structure of worship (Gather – Engage - Respond – Send).

Gathering	
Welcome	
Engaging	
Readings	
Reflection	
Responding	
The Big Question	
Sing & Praise	
Send	
Music	

Key features of Collective Worship at Holy Trinity

- ✚ Children are invited take an active part in an act of Collective Worship every day.
- ✚ A candle / or candles representing the trinity are lit to show that the act of worship has begun and to signify this is a significant time within the school day.
- ✚ Class candles are brought from individual classes
- ✚ The focal table at the front of the school reflects themes of worship and the liturgical calendar.
- ✚ All members of staff are given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- ✚ The clergy from Trinity Bethel, Open The Book, the Salvation Army, Methodist Church and the Cathedral are introduced to school at the beginning of the school year and are invited to lead Collective Worship either at the school or in church.
- ✚ Visits to Holy Trinity church are planned each half term and to celebrate festivals and key events during the school year.
- ✚ Themes are followed on a planned annual cycle as well as giving importance to events in the Christian year; the wonders of the world; humankind's challenges, achievements and failures and the celebration of religious festivals.
- ✚ Collective Worship themes also relate to the children's interests
 - classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities. During Advent, Lent and Pentecost there is a tradition of community worship.
- ✚ Collective Worship themes are presented in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- ✚ Collective Worship includes the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- ✚ The school has whole school prayer which all children will know and understand; an interactive Lord's Prayer is also shared.
- ✚ Time within Collective Worship is planned for calmness, silence and reflection.
- ✚ Children sit in a formation around the focal point so there is an element of togetherness
- ✚ Every Friday the school holds a Praise achievement assembly when parents are invited to celebrate pupil achievement awards.
- ✚ Parents are invited to Praise on a weekly basis, we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Fellowship Role

The Executive Headteacher is responsible for the leadership of all arrangements for Collective Worship supported by the Fellowship Leader.

Fellowship Leadership

- ✓ To lead the Federation choir (KS1 and KS2).
- ✓ To be proactive with choirs for school services in church and within local community.
- ✓ To lead Worship Warriors.
- ✓ To plan and deliver Boost alongside Holy Trinity Church.
- ✓ To lead outreach projects with local, national and global groups.
- ✓ To be proactive with the environmental project alongside Holy Trinity Church within the church yard for the community.

Fellowship Management

- ✓ To manage Collective Worship areas ensuring appropriate resources enhance worship.
- ✓ To manage clergy Collective Worship half termly rota.
- ✓ To liaise with Headteacher and clergy re Services and Festivals i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers.
- ✓ To prepare, plan, and lead a Collective Worship/ Sing & Praise as and when required.
- ✓ To liaise and support Holy Trinity Team for church services i.e. Pentecost, Candlemas.
- ✓ To coordinate and welcome Collective Worship Leaders
- ✓ To coordinate with the Headteacher, Padre and Little Heros to manage the annual remembrance Service in Spa Gardens.

- ✓ To coordinate the partnership with Ripon Cathedral, placing new events on the school website for children's activities throughout school holidays.
- ✓ To organise and plan the Candlemas event at the Cathedral.
- ✓ To plan and organise visits to local places of Faith interest linked to RE long term plan.

Worship Warriors

The school has a team of pupil Worship Warriors who support and lead Collective Worship. Pupils apply to be Worship Warriors highlighting key skills they can offer the team. Worship Warriors also plan and lead worship in church during key celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Over the year the Federation explores Christian value in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection. 'Values for Life' or 'Roots and Fruits' are used as the basis of these plans. An example of a yearly overview of values can be found in Appendix 1

The themes for Collective Worship are published at the beginning of each half term. Half termly plans are shared with staff and foundation governors as in Appendix 2. All worship is planned using the format in Appendix 3 Those leading worship are expected to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship, this includes a space for evaluation. Pupils as well as adults engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship.

Inclusion

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability, religion, physical or sensory disability or any other protected characteristic. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.

As a '*welcoming community of faith*' Holy Trinity welcomes children and staff of all faiths. Through our Christian character our acts of Collective Worship will:

- ✓ recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community. have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe.
- ✓ be appropriate for every pupil to attend.
- ✓ focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to our pupils.
- ✓ foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

Contribution to Spiritual Moral Social Cultural Education (SMSC)

Holy Trinity recognises that although SMSC development is fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area.

Acts of Collective Worship will aim to:

- ✓ nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service.
- ✓ nurture reflection, meditation and prayer.
- ✓ provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- ✓ provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day.
- ✓ foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it.
- ✓ develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

Monitoring, Evaluation SIAMS

The school regularly evaluates our acts of Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our open-door policy and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. It is the role of the Foundation Governor to liaise with the Headteacher to manage the monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship. SIAMS inspectors explore the ways in which Collective Worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision and to what extent it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Overview

Themes are linked with the Christian calendar and are depicted by colours; each season has a colour and change with the pattern of Worship as shown below.

Colour	Season	Wood
White	Joy and Rejoice	Christmas, Easter, Epiphany, Ascension, All Saints
Purple	Thinking deeply and waiting	Advent Lent
Green	A time to grow	Ordinary days (not celebrations)
Red	Sad times and certain joyful times	Ordinary days (not celebrations)

'Loved by God and one another, Holy Trinity is a welcoming community of faith, where we learn and flourish together. Each day opens up horizons of hope, aspiration and joy!'

Our school's vision and its associated values are grounded in a clear theology firmly rooted in a Christian narrative. We created our vision from the theological roots taken 1 John 4:11-12 alongside our deeply rooted belief that we are 'Loved by God and one another.' These biblical roots are woven throughout our collective worship provision and curriculum. As an old man John shares his wisdom in telling us how we are to live as Christians. We do not need to physically see God; He is already in us. God's love is made perfect or complete in us. In loving God and one another, we find the foundation of Christian life.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No-one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:11-12.

Appendix 2

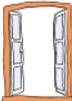
Date	Church Season & Festivals	Worship Songs	Themes, websites and resources Roots & Fruits 4	Leader
Koinonia				
Koinonia is a transliterated form of the Greek word, κοινωνία, which means communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution Exploring the meaning of 'Community' from small beginnings considering the idea of 'Who is my neighbour?'				
Monday 3 rd September	6 th Ganesh Chaturthi		Training Day	
Tuesday 4 th September	CW Music Rend My Lighthouse	Shine Jesus Shine (Assembly Songs)	Welcome Back!	KS1 ABW KS2 SS
Wednesday 5 th September			Welcome Back!	KS1 SS KS2 Canon Mathews
Thursday 6 th September			Sing & Praise	KS1 SLT / JT KS2 SLT / MT
Friday 7 th September				KS1 SLT KS2 SLT
Koinonia				
Koinonia is a transliterated form of the Greek word, κοινωνία, which means communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution Exploring the meaning of 'Community' from small beginnings considering the idea of 'Who is my neighbour?'				
Monday 9 th September	14 th Holy Cross Day	Wake Up (Songs for Every Assembly)	The Good Samaritan The Good Samaritan	KS1 SS KS2 ABW
Tuesday 10 th September	CW Music Walk With Me Goldford	Living & Learning (Songs for Every Assembly)	Jesus Feeds 5000 Jesus Feeds 5000	KS1 SLT KS2 CG
Wednesday 11 th September				KS1 canon Mathew KS2 Rev Michelle
Thursday 12 th September			Sing & Praise	KS1 SLT / JT KS2 SLT / MT
Friday 13 th September				Praise 9.00am Infants & Juniors End of Day Class Worship



Appendix 3

Collective Worship Theme

Date Leader

Aim	
Preparation (<i>focus table artefacts</i>)	
 Gathering	
As we come together in an act of Collective Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none">  We come to God who walks with us on our way.  We come with hope and faith we bring our doubts and fears.  We come in peace to pray for the needs of our neighbours.  We come together guided by the light of the world. 	<p>When I touch my head, I think of you Father God.</p> <p>When I put my hands over my heart, I remember to show you my love.</p> <p>When I put my hands together, I ask you to come and make everything right.</p> <p>When I touch my mouth, I ask you to give us the food we need.</p> <p>When I bow my head, I say sorry for the wrong things I have done.</p> <p>When I lift my head, I know you forgive me.</p> <p>When I open my arms, I ask you to help me be friends with everyone.</p>
 Welcome	 <p>Trinity Prayer Light three candles We have gathered together to worship God, Father and Holy Spirit and to learn about Today we are thinking about the value</p>
 Engaging	
	
Readings (<i>bible / text / poem / quotation</i>)	
	
 Reflecting	
	
Responding	
	
The Big Question	
	
Hymn	
	

Dismissal



Music



Evaluation

Gathering

Was the room 'ready for worship?' Did everyone know what they should be doing? Was there a greeting which made everyone feel welcome? Did this reflect Anglican liturgy?

Engaging

How was God's message shared? What strategies were used? Did they engage all pupils? Was the message distinctively Christian?

Responding

Was singing or prayer or reflection time used? Was there a practical response and how was this encouraged? Was there enough time for responding? Did pupils respond appropriately?

Sending

How did people leave worship - singing? silently? Were there special words of blessing or dismissal (eg Anglican liturgy)? Did this work well?