

# Holy Trinity Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Date created: September 2005

Last review date: January 2016

Next review: January 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Governing Body

### Introduction:

The Act of Collective Worship is held as part of the daily school assembly.

In addition to assemblies, all of which contain an act of collective worship, we participate in special services throughout the year, including: Christmas carols, Harvest, Easter, Trinity Sunday and other Civic services. These may be held at one of the local churches as part of our commitment to local faith communities.

At Holy Trinity we strive to ensure inclusivity whilst maintaining the Christian and Anglican heritage. In our school many children and their families describe themselves as non-believers and sometimes a few are from different faith communities. The fact that different faiths and cultures are relatively rare in our community is, we believe, a very strong reason for introducing multi-cultural/multi-faith experiences into our school.

### Aims and Objectives of Collective Worship at Holy Trinity Primary School:

The aim of the collective worship policy is to share and celebrate our school values and set the general ethos of the school plain for all to see:

- Respect for self, others, environment and respect and love of God;
- Building self esteem through the celebration of success and achievement;
- Reinforcement of what is acceptable/unacceptable in our community;
- Promote rights and responsibilities;
- Reinforce the principles of: 'do unto other as you would be done by yourself' and 'love thy neighbour';
- Help the community develop an attitude of forgiveness;
- Tackle relevant international, national and local issues that may be significant to children;
- Promote the Social and Emotional Aspects of learning (SEAL)

### Implementation:

Assemblies, whenever possible, should be held in the main school hall to promote the sense of occasion and gathering together. Assemblies are a special time; a time for sharing, thinking, listening and learning and, for those who wish to, a time to reflect on, or communicate with, God.

A range of strategies are used, including:

- Mood music on entry
- Darkened room with spotlights
- Hymns
- Stories of significance, often with a message or meaning
- Prayer (spoken/sung)
- Silent or guided reflection
- Artefacts, natural objects, photographs
- An address, discussion, reading or presentation by a member of staff, visitors or children

**Content:**

The Worship Co-coordinator drafts the assembly program for the academic year. Consideration is given to: the seasons, school milestones, religious days and festivals, areas of human endeavour, current issues and the local church calendar.

Themes are usually planned over a whole term, with a recommended period devoted to each theme (usually from 1 week up to a whole term depending on the topic/theme/issue). This allows for themes to be built up and explored over a sustained period. Planning is flexible however, allowing for short notice changes to be implemented in order to tackle a specific issue/incident. We feel that this approach ensures that our assemblies encompass established theme and respond to the needs of our children, families, school and community.

Support materials (icons, artefacts, hymns, music, prayers, readings, photographs etc.) are chosen to reflect the theme of the assembly. Whenever possible the assembly is planned as an integrated whole – links are constantly and actively sought to make assemblies relevant to the modern day world our children live in encompassing issues such as: Holocaust Memorial Day, Children in Need, Comic Relief, World Book Day etc. Children are often invited to have input into the chosen music.

**Involvement of Children:**

Children, whenever possible, are engaged in the preparation and implementation of our assemblies, they:

- Prepare the front table, including any resources, icons, etc.
- Sing, read and act as and when appropriate;
- Follow and read prayers (from the school Prayer Book);
- Welcome visitors and parents to assemblies.

Every week in 'Showing Assembly' one class talks about their work to the whole school – children always play an active part. Certificates and awards are presented in our weekly 'Celebration Assembly' – this assembly also sees teachers name their Pupil/s, Class, or Work of the Week. Every member of the teaching staff is asked to attend the celebration assembly.

**Visitors:**

Visitors, where appropriate and relevant, are always welcome to lead take part in our assemblies.

**Right of Withdrawal:**

Both children and staff have the right to withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship within the school assembly – this is made clear in the school prospectus. Staff must attend the assembly, even if they wish to withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship.

**Denominational Worship:**

A member of the local Clergy Team usually leads one assembly per week. Themes are often linked to school themes, but, occasionally the assemblies may standalone and reflect a current issue relevant to the locality and/or denomination.

**Planning, recording and evaluation:**

A record is kept of the assembly themes and a brief log of individual assemblies is also maintained. This provides staff with the opportunity to reflect and build upon previous assemblies that may have been delivered by others; music, prayers and hymns may be noted along with a brief evaluation.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.