



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by staff: Autumn Term 2015
Approved by Governors: Spring Term 2016
Next Review Date: Summer 2018

Version 1

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

We believe that our pupils should

- be helped towards an understanding of the main elements of the Christian faith, including the trinitarian nature of God.
- have experience the relational God of Christianity expressed through Worship and Prayer.
- acquire Bible Knowledge through assemblies and lessons, resulting in knowing by heart through music or prayer certain passages, for example, The Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm. That they should also have knowledge and know by heart passages from the Book of Common Worship including for example Graces and Responses.
- be prepared for, and have an opportunity, to lead and participate in worship and prayer.
- have an opportunity to deliver readings from the Bible publicly
- lead and participate in prayers said outside the daily Act of Collective Worship, as in class prayers. These should form part of daily practice.

Collective worship

At Tewin School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. It is a celebration intended to promote awe and wonder and a love of God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the act of collective worship. We warmly invite parents and governors to worship with us on special occasions and some of our collective worship extends further to our village community.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. This is in accordance with our Trust Deed which states that RE and Worship shall be given in accordance with the doctrines, rites and practices of the Church of England. However, we conduct our collective acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold some that acknowledge the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each day's assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or separate Key Stage assemblies.

We conduct collective acts of worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that it is a time set aside for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, to contribute meaningfully and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other foci, to engage the attention of the children.

The acts of collective worship are conducted by the Head teacher and members of staff, and our local clergy. Sometimes we will have guest speakers, for example, those representing charitable organisations.

We take the themes of our assemblies from our values programme, where we have a different value to focus on each month. We align these with traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. For example, during November, our value is Respect and we observe a Remembrance Day Service which is led by one of our classes. Bible readings often form a part of our Worship, either delivered by a member of staff or our more senior pupils. Sometimes the themes of our acts of collective worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, or in response to current events, as in the case with an international disaster or cause for celebration. We plan our collective worship in advance of the days they take place.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in these by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have been discussed in their classes. Collective Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Tewin Cowper School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children.

We carry out an evaluation of our Collective Worship on an annual basis with representatives from each of our stakeholder groups: children, staff, governors and parents; this helps us to plan our programme effectively and implement new ideas and improvements accordingly.

Worship at our local Parish Church of St Peters.

As a church school we recognise our place in the church community and the special benefits we can both gain and give by using the facility of our church building as a place of worship. We arrange to hold services annually, which are led by the pupils and to which the school and village community are warmly invited. These take place throughout the school year and align with the Christian calendar, celebration such as -Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, Epiphany, Family Thanksgiving, Easter, Pentecost and the Leavers Service. Our local clergy work alongside pupils and teachers to enable these services to be meaningful and successful. The welcome to these services is made in our local Parish News and by our clergy in notices given out during Sunday worship.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, customarily our parish priest who is also responsible for religious education. To facilitate monitoring, collective worship rotas and notes are forwarded by the R.E./collective worship coordinator, and the parish priest is also welcome to attend any of the collective worship conducted in school at any time. This Governor then liaises with the Head teacher before reporting annually to the Governors.

Named School Governor: Rev. Susannah Underwood