HOLY TRINITY PEWLEY DOWN

A Federation of Holy Trinity CoE Junior & Pewley Down CoE Infant Schools, Guildford

Collective Worship Policy

Opening Statement and Rationale

We are pleased to be a Church of England VA school and it is our duty and joy to celebrate each day, offering high quality collective worship opportunities to the whole school community. During these occasions, there are opportunities to be quiet, reflect and have time to think, to be lively and excited, to be part of a collective experience, fostering a sense of community, making connections and applying what is learned to our wider lives. It is where we most explicitly express and explore our school's Christian vision of "living life in all its fullness" (John 10, 10) from which our values flow. It is the prime means by which we endeavour to build a Christian community where *all* members flourish and fulfil their God-given potential. This includes children and their wider families, staff, governors and visitors to the school.

At Holy Trinity Pewley Down, collective worship takes place in an educational setting as part of the whole school curriculum. For some pupils, it is a full expression of worship, for others it will be a learning experience and a window to faith, but for all we hope it will be enjoyable and thought provoking. We endeavour that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It should be formational and transformational, encouraging children and adults into thinking differently, reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of collective worship, we should all be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes as well as being welcomed into conversations about faith in God.

At Holy Trinity Pewley Down, we consider collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes positively to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all learners.

Collective Worship is planned to:

- Be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all who attend and all should be able to talk about the impact it has on their relationships and on life in school and beyond. It should be truly welcoming, exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality, meeting the needs of all. It should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths.
- Provide opportunities for children and adults to encounter faith, engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.
- Regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching, exploring and relating how these link to the school's core Christian values.
- Have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- Help all children to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness.
- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, providing all learners with opportunities for wonder.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, as well as in the local, national and international community as well as marking occasions of significance, including festivals and national and global events.

Aims

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at HTPD School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate
- sharing and experiencing differences, with a consistently invitational freedom to contribute and engage with integrity and authenticity
- developing a culture of learning as a lifelong pursuit and purpose
- building a sense of group identity where all belong and are valued members of our community
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- understanding a Christian moral framework and demonstrating what this looks like in practice
- being part of the wider Christian community within the town and wider world
- a pause from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet)
- sharing in the language and forms of religious stories, doctrines, music, prayer and worship as an educational experience
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- exploring feelings and emotions, to think deeply, ask questions and develop a response to issues of faith and beliefs
- learning how to perform in front of an audience, leading others in worship and prayer
- learning how to respond to a performance, respectfully listening, engaging and contributing appropriately
- developing inner awareness of one's own spirituality
- learning about God, His relationship with us, and the impact He can have on our lives
- learning to worship and respond to God in a lively, inspirational and transformational way

Legal Requirement

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation. Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. HTPD School meets this requirement and this is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Planning and reviewing Collective Worship

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to step away from the business of the day, creating space for an encounter with faith in God. Specific time is set aside for planning collective worship and each collective worship opportunity stands apart from the rest of the day's lessons and activities.

We attempt to mark out these special times by, for example, lighting a candle, asking children to reflect quietly, playing music. Each person leading worship is expected to plan with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. SLT meet at least once a term to evaluate the assembly series. This also includes evaluations from children, other staff and parents. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council and pupil chats. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship. The RE and Christian Distinctiveness Governor has a role in monitoring Collective worship, regularly visiting assemblies.

Methods

- Worship is planned in themes that develop across a term.
- Each plan draws in other aspects, encouraging children to make connections and think deeply.
- Planning is creative and imaginative, drawing on drama, music, film, visits by outside agencies and participation by the whole school community to make worship meaningful. Resources are high quality and current.
- There is time for singing, reflection and prayer.
- There is time for the children to respond with questions and comments.
- The series are repeated in rotation over 4 years.
- Planning is led by the Headteacher who is responsible for collective worship, but involves as many teachers and staff as possible to ensure that worship is collective across the whole school community. Worship leaders have access to regular training through the local Diocesan education team.
- Assembly is timetabled to suit the needs of the school and can be at different times of the day and may involve different groups, to meet the needs of the children.
- Assemblies are led by a member of the senior team, with contributions from teachers and other staff. The rector from Holy Trinity church attends regularly.
- At times, other groups, charities, or churches may come to take assemblies (see visitors policy for more details).
- An important vehicle for collective worship is the class Thoughtful Times, which happen on Thursday. Here the children and teachers gather together to share ideas and reflections on the Thought of the Week. They may light a candle or incense and play music. Written material, prayers and poems are provided on the week's theme for teachers to use as they see fit. Each week pupils reflect on statements, questions, thoughts or ideas. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made in reflective diaries or as letters to Feedback Assembly at the juniors and class teachers make notes of children's thoughts to feedback at the infants. Comments in Reflective Diaries are subject to usual disclosure procedures, but often these responses are confidential between the children and their teacher. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

Collective Worship Format

	Infants	**Juniors**
Monday	Main Assembly	Main Assembly
Tuesday	Singing or Church/Community visitor Assembly	Year Group assembly (Picture News)
Wednesday	Year Group assembly (Picture News)	Singing or Church/Community visitor Assembly
Thursday	Thoughtful Time	Thoughtful Time
Friday	Feedback Assembly	Feedback Assembly

Parents do have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship. They can do this in consultation with the Headteacher.

Review

The Governing Body of HTPD first adopted this policy in 2010. The authors are VE / DP. It will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and will be revised as often as may be required.

Date last reviewed: June 2025

Date for next review: June 2027

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Signed:
Vicky Ellis
Headteacher HTPD