

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 as such it is our duty and joy to celebrate each day by worshipping God. During this time there are opportunities to be quiet, reflect and have your own thoughts, be lively and excited, be part of a collective experience, make connections and apply what you have learned.

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.

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's values and ethos of "Learning to Live" – whereby we endeavour to provide a Christian community where all members flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

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

Collective Worship is therefore planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all who attend and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in school and beyond
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate 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; by providing all learners with something to wonder at
- provide an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Aims

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

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity where all belong and are valued;
- 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

- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- sharing in the language and forms of religious stories, doctrines 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;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- developing inner awareness
- learning about God and the impact He can have on our lives
- learning to worship in a lively and inspirational 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

Specific time is set aside for planning collective worship and each collective worship opportunity stands apart from the rest of the day.

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 his or her act of worship 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. Tim Burgess, one of the school's governors has a role in monitoring Collective worship – he is a regular visitor to our assemblies.

Methods

- Worship is planned in themes that develop across a term.
- Each year has a term with
 - A focus on God
 - A focus on Jesus
 - A focus on the Bible
- 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.
- 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, but involves as many teachers and staff as possible to ensure that worship is collective across the whole school community.
- 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. Children regularly lead sections of assembly.
- 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. 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

Monday	Main Assembly
Tuesday	Year Group assembly
Wednesday	Singing or Church/Community visitor Assembly
Thursday	Thoughtful Time
Friday	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 CB /TB / DP It will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and will be revised as often as may be required.

Date last reviewed: January 2021

Date for next review: January 2022

Signed:

Clare Brunet

Headteacher HTPD