

Terling C of E (Aided) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Flourish and Shine in all that we do
"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of heavens"
Daniel 12:3

Approved: February 2024
Ratified: February 2024
Review: February 2027

Signed by:

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, exploring our vision to flourish and shine in all that we do, "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of heavens",

Our vision is underpinned by our Christian beliefs. We celebrate the uniqueness of every child within our Christian community while we work to support and challenge our children. We support them to flourish and shine in all they do, preparing them for life's journey. We build upon our Christian values of respect, trust, courage and truthfulness.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

At Terling CE Primary School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. Collective worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Legal Requirements and the right of withdrawal

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings.

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Terling CE Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

In Terling CE Primary School, there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve.

As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas.
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. Parents are kindly asked to formalise this request in writing.

Guiding Principles

It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework.

Collective worship in Terling CE Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Share in each other's joys and challenges.
- Explore the big questions and respond to national events.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice Leadership

- Daily worship is led by either the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church or individual visitors or teams.

Planning

- Worship is planned by the headteacher, in collaboration with members of the clergy, class teachers and pupils.
- Every Monday, worship is led by the Head teacher and follows a focus from our Collective Worship planning. Every Tuesday, worship focuses on a weekly theme from 'Picture News', providing opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for other's beliefs, feelings and faiths. Picture News

encourages exploration, discussion, challenge and inspires children to learn. It provides an opportunity for children and adults to explore faith in today's world. On Wednesdays, we hold singing assemblies, which include a variety of worship songs. Our Thursday Collective Worship is led by a member of the local church or clergy.

- All members of the school community, including children, are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship.
- Our pupils take the lead role in praying for one another, our community and our world, in all of our acts of worship. This often includes the school prayer, which was written by the community.
- The Christian value which is focused on within collective worship, links with the season of the Church year, for example, Generosity is discussed when Harvest Festival is celebrated and Forgiveness is discussed when Easter normally falls.
- The Christian values of the school were identified by all of the school family. They are values which we believe children should be focused on through their lives, not just at school. They are expressed and celebrated throughout collective worship and day to day school life.
- A range and variety of materials are used to support collective worship. This will include websites, artefacts, stories and drama scripts, artwork, music, songs and focal points such as a picture or candle.
- Terling CE Primary School has a school prayer which was written by the children of the school. It is shared in collective worship, along with prayers that might be written by the children. These are times for stillness and reflection.
- The Trinitarian nature of God is explored through termly worship. In the autumn, we explore 'God the Father', in the Spring, we explore 'God the son' and in the summer, we explore 'The Holy Spirit'. Worship is introduced each day using the greeting 'We have gathered in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit'.

Organisation

- Worship takes place in our school hall and always includes the whole school, seated in their year groups.
- Music is played as pupils enter the hall silently, to ensure that all pupils are aware they are entering a "special place" and to prepare them for this special time. The music focus changes each week and is introduced to the children at the start of the week.
- Once all pupils are gathered, our worship candle is lit and Head Pupils welcome us to worship by saying, "Good morning, may peace be with you". The community respond, "and also with you", and we then share that peace with our friends by sharing a smile.
- At the front of the worship space, we have our candle, cross and bible which sit on a cloth which reflects the liturgical colour of the season of the Church Year.
- The school visits All Saints' Church, Terling, termly for Collective Worship which reflects key points in the Christian calendar – for example, Christmas and Easter. These services are led by children.
- On a Monday, worship is held first thing in the morning. For the rest of the week, worship is held at the end of day, closing our time together.
- At the end of each term, we hold an additional worship time, where we sit in a horse shoe shape, around our candle, and every adult is given the opportunity to share a poems or Bible reading.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies which can be found on the school website.

The welcoming member of staff/headteacher/Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices Collective Worship.

The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Pupil Led Worship

Since we believe worship to be an activity of the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation. Pupils regularly plan and lead Collective Worship on a voluntary basis.

Pupils regularly greet and welcome the school to worship and then lead the dismissal at the end.

Our worship on a Friday is a "Shine worship", giving the school opportunity to celebrate our achievements through our Christian beliefs and values, encompassing our vision that "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of heavens". Children lead "Shine worship" where pupils are rewarded both for their achievements in lessons, and for showing Christian values in our school community.

Our worship group meet with our Collective Worship Leader, Incumbent and Foundation Governor to design and develop collective worship opportunities. They meet monthly to discuss worship and how they can plan to be involved.

Our Incumbent and Foundation Governor, along with a group of volunteers, lead an after school club called 'Explorers' where children explore Christian stories with an emphasis on Christian festivals. 'Explorers' also lead a termly whole school worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed through discussions with pupils and staff through observations and reflections.

These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and Foundation Governor.



Terling Church of England Primary School
Collective Worship Christian Values Overview

Flourish and shine in all that we do
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Year	Autumn 1 Liturgical colours:	Autumn 2 Liturgical colours:	Spring 1 Liturgical colours:	Spring 2 Liturgical colours:	Summer 1 Liturgical colours:	Summer 2 Liturgical colours:
1	Generosity 'God loves a cheerful giver' <i>2 Corinthians 9.7</i> God the Father	Compassion 'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience' <i>Colossians 3.12</i>	Courage 'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' <i>Joshua 1.9</i> God the Son	Forgiveness 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others' <i>Colossians 3.13</i>	Friendship 'Encourage one another and build each other up' <i>1 Thessalonians 5.11</i> God the Holy Spirit	Respect 'Do to others as you would have them do to you' <i>Matthew 7.12</i>
2	Thankfulness 'Always be thankful' <i>1 Thessalonians 5.16</i> God the Father	Trust 'My God is my strength in whom I trust' <i>Psalm 18.2</i>	Perseverance 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me' <i>Philippians 4.13</i> God the Son	Justice 'Learn to do right. Seek justice' <i>Isaiah 1.17</i>	Service 'Serve one another in love' <i>Galatians 5.13</i> God the Holy Spirit	Truthfulness 'Tell the truth to each other' <i>Zechariah 8.16</i>
3	The words of Jesus God the Father Advent and Christmas		People Jesus Meets God the Son Holy Week and Easter		The Parables of Jesus God the Holy Spirit	The Miracles of Jesus

Year 1 and 2: Twelve Christian values are shared across the year. Each term focuses on one value which links with the season of the Church year. Roots and Fruits 2 is used as an accompanying resource.

Year 3: The Christian value in an individual act of worship is determined by the Bible text. Across the term, six Christian values are covered: hope, community, dignity, wisdom, joy and peace. Each term, a different aspect of the life and teaching of Jesus is explored. Roots and Fruits 2 is used as an accompanying resource.