

Trent CE Primary School Governing Body

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Inspired by Christ



Kindness Thankfulness Perseverance

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” Inspired by Jesus’ example, the Trent school community aims to serve one another in love.

We show **kindness** to others because God has shown us great kindness.

We live **thankful** lives, because every good thing comes from God.

We **persevere**, not giving up, because God is our helper.

Approved by committee/GB	Full GB
Ratified by GB	November 2023
Date for review	October 2025

Policy Statement

At Trent School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Trent C of E is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the schools, vision aims and ethos that we are inspired by Christ, and therefore serve one another in love. Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of Kindness, thankfulness and perseverance

Our aim for collective worship

We believe that the core aim for collective worship is to enrich children's understanding of biblical knowledge, so that we can know more of the character of God and His relationship with us. We do this through teaching a sequence of bible stories and by focusing on a key 'take-away' thoughts or action that everyone (child or adult) can reflect on that day.

Our vision

Our vision, 'inspired by Christ we serve one another in love' ensures that as we study scripture we are learning more about God who sent his son Jesus. As we learn about Jesus and see his example this feeds into the action of changing our behaviour to serve one another in love!

We aim for our time together to provide an opportunity for shared joy but also a time for deeper thought and reflection. Pupils are provided a clear voice through shared discussion, engagement and leadership. Our school faith is shared explicitly throughout this time and provided opportunities to extend into the classroom.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

We aim for our collective worship to

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for

1. the whole community to celebrate;
2. sharing and experiencing differences;
3. developing a culture of learning;
4. building a sense of group identity;
5. encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
6. a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
7. learning how to behave in a large social group;
8. exploring feelings and emotions;
9. learning how to perform in front of an audience;
10. learning how to respond to a performance;
11. making visible the school's leadership;

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head teacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Head teacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship lead with the children's worker at Christ Church Cockfosters plans the themes for the year / term and then creates a detailed half termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and import events. We aim to ensure we look at our vision and values every year in some form. We look at both old and new testaments texts. We vary the approach to ensure that we look at both themes and narratives. (These are kept on the server electronically)

The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson. The Collective Worship lead provides resources and help for teachers as they plan and deliver their Collective worship.

Pupils are involved in collective worship by leading the liturgy each day, volunteers are selected regularly to help share ideas and thoughts with the school or help to demonstrate a concept/story. Children are asked to lead prayers and songs with actions.

The vision and value ambassadors are involved in reviewing the CW each half term (see evaluation form in CW folder) these help to feed into the next half terms CW plans

See Appendix 1 for the organisation of collective worship for the current and previous academic year.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. All our CW is based on a big question for the half term, with each week containing a smaller question to explore.

Our current schedule is as follows;

Day	Assembly Theme	Leader
Monday	Bible focussed assembly (introduction to story/concept)	Class teachers
Tuesday	Songs of Praise Assembly/Hymn practice (a brief recap of our question/story of the week/half term is included)	Music Teacher
Wednesday	Bible focussed assembly (further explanation of theological concept/bible story or idea)	Church Team
Thursday	Celebration Assembly (We included a opportunity to reflect on thanking God here as well)	Head teacher
Friday	Bible focussed (application based – so what difference does it make to our lives?)	Class teacher

Each collective worship session begins with our school written liturgy.

Leader; In the beginning,

School: God created the heavens and the earth.

Leader; No one has ever seen God,

School: Jesus the Son has made him known.

Leader: When the holy spirit comes,

School: He will guide us into all truth.

Leader; Let us not give up meeting together.

School: Instead, let us encourage one another all the more.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including songs of praise. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children and others. Children are regularly invited to lead the school in prayers at the end of a time of worship to reflect the children's understanding and feelings.

Prayers are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet or reflection time ensuring that this is invitational.

Before lunch in each classroom, a prayer of thanks (grace) is said by either an adult or child. At the end of the day, a prayer from the class prayer pack is said to bring a close to the school day.

Each class has a prayer journal and children are encouraged to write/draw in this whenever is appropriate.

Church services

There are regular church services no less than once a half term for the whole school. Including Welcome back service, Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and end of year etc.

Collective worship @home

We encourage families to join in with our collective worship. Through weekly contact via google classrooms or the school newsletters, we aim to ensure that collective worship doesn't just happen in the hall for half an hour a day, but is something that involves the whole school community and continues throughout each day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the collective worship team. We welcome members of the church Collective Worship team at least once a week.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Monitoring, Record Keeping Evaluation and Inspection

The school is building a four-year plan that follows key religious festivals and is also linked to the school's vision and values. (see appendix 1) Assemblies are monitored by governors, teachers and children. From each monitoring session we aim to take on board advice to ensure our assemblies are interesting, thoughtful and varied.

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The content and delivery is evaluated half termly by the CW lead and the church team. This feeds into the next half terms planning – Records are kept electronically.

The CW leader seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship every half term

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

This policy is reviewed bi-annually

Appendix 1- Four-year *organisation of collective worship for the current and previous academic year.*

Appendix 2 – Pupil evaluation forms.