

HOLY TRINITY C of E SCHOOL, East Finchley



High Standards Together

Our vision is to create a family rooted in love for one another where children and adults can flourish and achieve their potential to reach their own spiritual, academic and personal goals.

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” John 13: 34

Title	Worship Policy
Governor Committee	RE & Worship
Target Audience	All staff and parents
Curriculum / non curricular	Non-Curricular
Associated Policies / Documents	SIAMS schedule
New Policy or Review of existing policy.	Review (significant changes)
Date of Submission	September 2019
Date for Review	September 2020
Date ratified by Governors	September 2019

Introduction

As a Church of England primary school, worship permeates all aspects of school life. It can be defined as:

- A collective fellowship for praise and prayer through communication between God and ourselves.
- A time for teaching and learning about God's word and learning to live in God's world as Jesus Christ lived and taught.

This policy reflects our school vision, particularly in supporting pupils to 'reach their own spiritual goals.' We follow what is taught in the bible through John 13:34 as we come together in love for one another as part of worship in school.

Aims for Worship

- to communicate with God through prayer and reflection, singing, celebrating and teaching
- to foster an awareness of Church of England liturgy and doctrine
- to encourage a religious imagination
- to foster strong Christian values and reflect on them in our lives and relationships
- to build up the spiritual life of the school community
- to provide opportunities to gather together in fellowship
- to foster an understanding and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to develop an appreciation of God's world
- to understand repentance and forgiveness
- to celebrate God in all people
- to provide opportunities for pupils and staff to develop spiritually, through experiences of prayer, stillness and reflection

Guidelines

Core Christian Values

Our Core Christian Values, as identified by the school community (parents, children, staff and governors) are:

- Koinonia
- Forgiveness
- Compassion

These are our associated values that are linked to our school's Christian Vision and will be the focus of Collective Worship for each term.

Themes

Collective worship planned for the year will focus on the 3 core Christian Values and explore key themes around the teachings from the bible that is central to our Christian Vision:

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" John 13v34

Collective worship will unpack the meaning of 'love' for Christians and all who attend collective worship. This will include exploring the following themes:

- Family
- Friends
- Community
- Serving others
- Resolving conflict
- God's love

When planning to use these themes it is important that

- the content is relevant to children and the age range concerned
- the content is linked as much as possible to the Bible
- the content takes into account major events in the Church's year, notably such times as Lent, Easter, Christmas and Harvest.

The Collective Worship rota will also be based around key events in the Christian calendar, as illustrated in LDBS Collective Worship Calendar

Prayer

- Prayer is an integral part of life in a Church school and may be used in class or collective worship. .
- Prayer should always be child friendly and relevant to their own experience.
- Prayer should reflect a balance of
 - praise to God
 - petition relevant to Christian experience
 - traditional/liturgical prayer

People Leading

- All teaching staff will lead collective worship (on a rota basis).
- The Head Teacher/Deputy Head will lead collective worship each week
- It is the intention that each week, collective worship will be led by a Minister of the Church of England.
- Invited visitors may lead collective worship, such as Pathways

Collective worship, at times, is to be planned and led by the children. Children are to be actively involved in the delivery of collective worship where possible.

Hymns/Songs

Hymns/songs may be chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn hymns/songs appropriate to their age.

Music

Music may be played to encourage an atmosphere of reflection. Children may at times play live music in assembly.

Focus

The use of a focus, especially during the reflection time, is to be encouraged. Such things as a cross or candles or might be used. The use of an interactive candle is also appropriate.

Visual Aids

If visual aids are used they should be suitable for the age range concerned.

Arrival in assembly and leaving

Children should arrive and leave in a quiet and orderly fashion.

Teaching prayers and responses

During the year the children will be taught a range of prayers which include;

- The Lord's Prayer,
- The School Prayer
- The Grace
- Thanksgivings before meals
- various prayers to be said at the beginning or end of the day.

Participation

Everyone can be actively involved in a number of ways: reading, drama, music and singing, response to questions and 'audience' participation.

All parents are welcome to attend assemblies.

Reflection

The children are to be given opportunities for reflection during assemblies.

Collective Worship Timetable

An example of a Collective Worship rota:

Monday	-	Worship through music – lead by staff
Tuesday	-	Theme/value Collective Worship – lead by staff
Wednesday	-	Collective Worship on the theme of the week or linked to liturgical calendar – led by Church minister
Thursday	-	British Values - lead by staff
Friday	-	Celebration assembly – Usually led by HT/DHT or member of SLT

Collective worship takes place at the beginning of the day to allow the messages to be taken into class and shape the school day.

The programme of collective worship reflects events in the liturgical calendar. Collective Worship is used to explore our Christian Vision, drawing out key messages from the teachings of the bible including John 13:34 and the Last Supper. This includes exploring associated values. We also include biblical text references within collective worship and explore the Trinitarian nature of God.

Church Links

- Children are invited to attend the Parish Church several times a year:
- From time to time services at churches other than the Parish Church may be held.
- All parents are welcome to attend the services held attended by their children.
- The children make educational visits to the Parish Church from time to time.

Community Links

From time to time groups of children will extend their joy in service to the wider community, e.g. East Finchley Community Festival, carol singing.

Resources

The School endeavours to ensure that appropriate resources are made available to worship leaders.

Evaluating and Monitoring

- Informal feedback between staff-termly
- Formally review the policy annually.
- Feedback from the children via the School Council
- Pupil questionnaires, surveys and discussions