

HOLY TRINITY C of E SCHOOL, East Finchley



High Standards Together

'At Holy Trinity School we promise to provide opportunities for every child to be the best that they can be.'

We aim to create a happy and secure Christian environment in which children can grow in confidence and independence.

We strive for excellence in teaching and learning to achieve high standards together.'

Policy Name: WORSHIP POLICY

Date Ratified by Full Governing Body: July 2016

To be reviewed: July 2017

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.

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

Guidelines

Core Christian Values

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

- Hope
- Koinonia
- Compassion
- Wisdom
- Forgiveness
- Peace

These Values will be the focus of Collective Worship for half a term.

Themes

During the school year, the 15 Christian Values for Schools, as enunciated by The National Society for Promoting Religious Education, are to be used as themes.

More information can be found on <http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk> . This website contains information about each of the 15 Christian Values.

- Reverence
- Wisdom
- Thankfulness
- Humility
- Endurance

- Service
- Compassion
- Trust
- Peace
- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Justice
- Hope
- Creation
- Koinonia

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.

Prayer

- Prayer is an integral part of life in a Church school and may be used in class or assembly.
- 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 assemblies (on a rota basis).
- The Head Teacher/Deputy Head will lead one assembly each week
- It is the intention for one assembly each week to be led by a Minister of the Church of England.
- Invited visitors may lead assemblies.

Assemblies are, at times, led by the children.

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.

Assembly Timetable

An example of an assembly rota:

Monday	- Themes Assembly – staff rota
Tuesday	- Worship in music – staff rota
Wednesday	- Themed Church minister Assembly
Thursday	- Celebration assembly – Usually led by HT/DHT or member of SLT
Friday	- Themed or Class Assembly

Church Links

- Children are 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

Reviewed by

R. Kimani and E Bellerby, May 2016

Monitored by the RE & Worship Sub-committee