

## Torre C of E Academy Collective Worship Policy

### Policy Statement

At Torre C of E Academy, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision and values and explore the theology from where these derive:

*VISION: We "Live life in all its fullness." John 10:10.*

*VALUES:*  *Pray, Praise, Potential, Pride, Persevere*

We also aim to explore the Church of England's Vision for Education when we come together to worship.

Collective Worship 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.

All worship opportunities in the school are inclusive and invitational. Opportunities are provided for spiritual growth through reflection time, music, singing and engaging in stories and discussion.

### Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of generosity, thankfulness, trust, compassion, perseverance, justice, respect, forgiveness, friendship, service and courage. Understanding of these values is developed through use of the Imaginor Roots and Fruits resources.

### School Values – Peace, Pride, Persevere, Potential, Praise and Prayer

We blend Christian teaching and school values in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### Character Education

We believe that our children need to understand and to be equipped with the characteristics they need to live good lives and to be good people. Collective Worship is an opportunity to explore virtues that Jesus and others in the Bible demonstrated and allow children time to reflect on how they too can learn to develop these strengths of character themselves.

### Mental Health and Well-being

When stories are used in Collective Worship, opportunities are taken to relate to the emotions and feelings the characters in the stories have in conjunction with the 'We Eat Elephants' programme. This enables pupils to learn more about how to stay mentally healthy and to understand their own mental health better.

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Assembly</b>	<b>Lead member of staff</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Collective Worship	Class teacher, or pupil Worship Leaders
<b>Tuesday</b>	Collective Worship	Sue Julyan or visiting vicar/minister/preacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Singing and Reflection time	Lauren Cheeseworth
<b>Thursday</b>	Collective Worship	Father Peter
<b>Friday</b>	Celebration	Classes

(See appendix 1) - Three-year collective worship theme cycle

### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday's collective worship reflect our school vision, values, Christian values, the Church of England Vision for Education, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children

entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The current theme for worship is displayed on the projector and children are reminded to reflect on this as they enter and wait for worship to begin. The title of the piece of music is shared with the children and could come from a variety of cultures. The three candles on the altar table are lit in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and the appropriate coloured cloth is on display to represent the time of year and the worship begins.

The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and a blessing which everyone says together. Pupils are reminded about the current challenge displayed in the class reflection area which is linked to the worship theme. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Every class leads whole school celebration once a term and parents are invited in to share the experience with the children annually. These sessions are usually linked to recent learning or to the values that we have been focusing on. Each Friday assembly starts with the children entering the room accompanied by a piece of music and candles may be lit if felt appropriate. This time together is always finished with a prayer and the whole school blessing before the children go back to their classes.

Class Collective Worship (Mondays) are based around the current theme but are also linked to events in the news from the previous week. An explicit link is also drawn to British Values. Pupils are encouraged to 'support' or 'challenge' a key thought or question. This enables us to develop the children's spirituality. A copy of the news poster and focus British Value is displayed in the class reflection areas and on the class blogs to encourage pupils to continue their discussions further when the collective worship period is over.

We learned during the Covid pandemic, the value of live streaming Collective Worship - even when all pupils are in school. This led to full engagement of staff and pupils as they were able to fully discuss and debate 'big questions' within their own classes and then feedback to the whole school using the 'chat' function. Many more pupils had a 'voice' when worshipping this way. As a result of this, a hybrid approach to Collective Worship has been adopted, with some days being in person and others online.

#### Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers are sometimes written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

The school song is sung in some worship or class prayer times as a reminder of how Proverbs 3.5 can help us to live out our school vision.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, a prayer is said by either an adult or child/children in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day. Every class room has a Reflection Area, (see appendix 2) where the current worship theme is explicitly shared and where the reflection and evidence book can be found. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

The school has a Prayer Tree, in the school hall. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and pin them on the tree. Sometimes these are related to a value, to the current worship theme, or on other occasions, this could be a personal prayer.

There is a spirituality trail around the school to encourage pupils to use alternative spaces for worship. This is referred to in some collective worship sessions and is also highlighted to the children annually. Each station of the spirituality trail is explicitly linked to the school's vision, values and also to the character traits that have been identified as those we need to develop in the children.

#### Other Faiths and No Faith

At Torre C of E Academy our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. In RE, as part of the curriculum requirements, pupils learn about how those of other faiths worship. Worship is inclusive and invitational.

Where families choose for their child not to participate in worship, provision is made.

#### Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Each Act of Worship led by school is planned with full notes onto a PowerPoint and kept electronically. Collective Worship is observed and monitored by school staff, pupils and governors. Evaluations are used to inform changes and are kept on file.

#### Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Torre C of E Academy ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. All Saint's Church

is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest (except EYFS and KS1), Christmas and Easter.

#### Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from Collective Worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- The Governor Curriculum and Ethos Committee plays a key role in the monitoring of the effectiveness of worship. This includes monitoring visits and talking to pupils and staff. The committee also supports the school Ethos Group (with consists of governors, staff and parents). The Ethos Group created planning for class teachers to use for class reflection times (this is in addition to class collective worship) and also organises a Prayer Tent in the summer term.

#### Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E and subjects covered in Collective Worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Reviewed and approved: Spring 2022

Review date: Spring 2023