



**HOLY TRINITY**  
**Church of England Academy**  
*Brockley Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 0TS*

# **Collective Worship Policy**

**Here in Holy Trinity CE Academy we value all members of our school community as learners,  
nurturing and empowering them to become the best they can possibly be.**

**‘Growing and Learning Together in Love’**

**As in the example of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**‘Love one another as I have loved you’**

**John 13:34**

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### 1. Introduction

At Holy Trinity C of E Academy, 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 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.

### 2. Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and acceptance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth.

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

#### **John 13:34-35**

*“...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.*

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### 3. 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.

## 4. Organisation

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

### **Monday**

Celebration Worship – led by the Head teacher

### **Tuesday**

Whole School Worship led by the local Clergy – Father Mervyn Thompson

### **Wednesday**

Whole School Worship led by a member of the School Leadership Team

### **Thursday**

Whole School Worship led by individual year groups

### **Friday**

Whole school Hymn Practice – led by an Assistant Head teacher

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Worship takes place on a Friday morning

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

## 5. Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for collective worship reflect the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall in silence. The candles at the front of the hall are lit and the worship begins with the children singing a hymn. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. 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 in silence.

Year Groups have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on Thursday. The format is similar to whole school worship, children leave in the same way as before.

Celebration Worship on Friday acknowledges the children's achievements both in and outside school, usually led by the Headteacher. Normally, teachers choose one member of their class to receive a special mention and award.

### 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 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 an Assistant Headteacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

## **6. Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing acceptance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

## **7. Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

The worship timetable is agreed each term with Father Mervyn Thompson (Parish Priest All Saints' Parish Church). Stakeholders are welcomed to evaluate and reflect on the acts of worship. The children evaluate and reflect on their own class worship, these evaluations are kept in the Year Group Scrap Book.

Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

## **8. Visits and Visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Holy Trinity 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 Saints' Parish Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Christmas and Leavers' Services.

## **9. Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues**

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- The role of link governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The R.E. coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

## **10. 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. 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.