



St Thomas the Martyr C E Primary School

Worship Policy

Introduction

At St. Thomas the Martyr School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Our School Vision

We develop positive relationships that sustain, nurture and encourage our Christian ethos to enhance outcomes as we grow and achieve together, supporting our precious children as they strive with energy, passion and resilience to be the best they can be.

"May all that we do be done with love" - Corinthians 16:14.

Mission Statement

At St Thomas the Martyr we strive to provide a caring Christian community where everyone can enjoy growing and achieving together. We seek to provide a school experience which is full of creativity, challenge, wonder and fun where achievement of all kinds is recognised and celebrated. Through a stimulating, challenging curriculum and working in partnership with parents, Governors, the church and wider community we work hard to ensure our children reach their full potential.

Christian values and spirituality are at the heart of all aspects of school life. Through them children learn to work well together and develop skills and attitudes to become confident, responsible individuals with a love of learning able to make a positive contribution to the world. We have worked closely with parents, children, Governors and staff to identify our core Christian values; kindness, service, perseverance, respect, friendship and fellowship, forgiveness and trust.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To nurture the children in their own personal faith and enrich their spiritual and moral development
- To celebrate and enhance the life of the school in the presence of God
- To develop links with the local Church, introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England and understand the central place of the Eucharist
- To create an environment where children, staff and families have the opportunity to worship God within the life of the community

Every class will be given the opportunity each year to plan and lead worship with their class Christian value as a focus. Year 2 and Year 6 will lead an additional Collective worship at the end of the school year. Parents are invited to class led collective worship to share in the children's work.

In addition, children have the opportunity to be involved in the termly school Eucharist in a variety of ways. There will be special acts of worship in school marking events in the Church year these will include: Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost.

We aim to create an atmosphere of worship through a variety of music and styles reflecting the different traditions of the Christian Church. Opportunities will be provided for both interaction and time for personal reflection and prayer.

Prayers will be said in each class every day led by the teacher or children. This will include prayers before lunch and at the end of the day.

Local clergy will lead worship each week and in addition to this; visitors to the school may also be invited for example, a member of a charity organisation, local secondary head teachers or different members of clergy.

All collective worship is open to parents, family and governors and invitations are sent at special times.

Opportunity exists for Key stage 2 children to join the Explorers Christian club in school where they develop their faith through a range of activities and worship.

Contents

The content of our school worship will include the following elements.

Elements of Faith

The nature of God

Understanding the Bible

Old Testament stories

Stories about the teaching of Jesus

Christian Symbols

Church seasons and festivals

Church history

Stories of Christians past and present

Christian beliefs

Church life and worship. Such as, Eucharist, daily offices, baptism, marriage, funeral services, Our schools core Christian values namely: kindness, service, perseverance, respect, friendship and fellowship, forgiveness and trust.

Prayer and God - exploring ideas about the nature of God, as Father, Son and Spirit. Exploring ideas about prayer as well as practising prayer.

Variety in Prayers

In forms of prayer e.g. thanksgiving, praise, intercession, silence, meditation, contemplation, responses, the Lord's prayer, Common Worship Collects, prayers from other Christian traditions

e.g. Celtic. Famous prayers. Acknowledgement of failings and wrong doings, confessions, forgiveness and reconciliation. Pupils own prayers, either prepared or spontaneous. Our school prayer is written by the children.

St Thomas the Martyr School Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for all of the good things you have gifted us in life. Guide us as we journey through the pathway you set before us. Show us that you walk there beside us, protecting and challenging us as we face uncertainty.

Let us show respect to others in all we do, think and say. Help us to follow rules that keep us safe and respect those which come from higher authority.

Bless us with love which we can share and divide amongst our world.

And Lord, always remind us that if all that we do be done with love, that we cannot falter.

We ask this in your glorious name,

Amen

Hymns and Songs from the Christian tradition from a variety of sources - Taize, Iona, traditional and modern songs.

Sharing and Celebrating Pupil Achievement in sports, school work, hobbies, relationships, behaviour in and out of school.

Sharing and Taking Note of Common Experiences - loss, death, birthdays, anger, thankfulness, sorrow, joy, fear, jealousy, beauty, good-byes, new siblings, illness, recovery etc.

Expressing Concern for Others, both in stories from school and in the news. Picture News supports weekly discussion. Roots and Fruits supports the delivery of collective worship.

Looking at the world - developing awe and wonder, exploring mystery, pattern, order, change and renewal, thanksgiving.

Topical Events - crises, continuing issues, starvation etc.

Stories which illustrate faith themes, eg stories of awe, wonder, love and compassion, myths, legends, literature and children's literature, stories which explore metaphor, truth bearing stories, biographies.

Music from a variety of sources, recorded and pupil performances, eg songs and folksongs.

Information About Other Faiths - but not 'other faith' worship

All of the above will be done clearly and explicitly in the presence of God, in a way which points to God and which brings our concerns and joys before God.

Organisation of Worship

Day	Time	Led by
Monday	9.05am	Head teacher and Head boys and girls
Tuesday	Class worship	Class teacher
Wednesday	9am or 9m	Class Value
Wednesday	2.40pm	Clergy
Thursday	Class worship	Class teacher
Friday	2.30pm	Head teacher

Worship Co-ordinator

It is the responsibility of the Worship Coordinator to plan a programme of worship with the clergy for each term, the whole school Eucharist and all other special acts of worship, ensuring that the content and approaches outlined above are put into practice. Staff and pupils will be involved in this planning where appropriate. The Co-coordinator will then issue a programme to all members of the teaching staff and leaders of school worship.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating.

Records are kept of the different types of worship which takes place in school. Each term the Headteacher, as the Worship co-ordinator, will meet with clergy/governors to regularly monitor the content and delivery of school worship and hold one formal meeting each year to discuss the school worship. Children, parents are also regularly asked to provide feedback on collective worship. A collective worship book is passed through the school classes on a weekly basis for each class to feedback on the learning and worship that takes place.

Governing Body

At St. Thomas the Martyr we have an identified governor for Religious Education and Worship who will review practice and is invited to attend relevant school INSET.

Legal Right to Withdraw.

In view of the religious foundation of the school, the governors anticipate that parents will wish to commit their children to attendance at the worship which takes place in the school. However, in accordance with Sections 9 (3) of the Education Reform Act, 1988, parents have a right to withdraw their children from school worship.

Complaints About the Provision Of Collective Worship.

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possible with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures are to be followed and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop.

The above Policy has been devised by the Headteacher with advice from the Diocese and Helen Foster (Chair of Governors).

Date of Policy: December 2019

Review date: September 2020