

TREETON CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL
POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2024-25
(Reviewed and updated September 2024)

The Character of Treeton C of E Primary School

Treeton is a Church of England Primary School, and is part of the Diocese of Sheffield Multi Academy Trust. It has a majority of Foundation Governors provided by the church, and therefore has a right and a privilege to provide the children of Treeton with a school where the Christian faith and practice lies at the heart of its religious education. Our aim is that Treeton School should be a living Christian community and, therefore, the Christian faith should permeate the whole of school life. Worship should be at its heart and there should be a living link between church, school and parish.

However, we recognise that there are pupils with widely differing experiences of worship. Some:-

- go to Church regularly
- have no such experiences beyond school
- belong to and worship in the context of another faith.

Worship in Treeton Church of England Primary, is collective worship as opposed to corporate worship. The school community is a community engaged in an activity which, no matter how valuable, is a legal obligation. It is not a faith community. These are not people sharing one faith who have chosen to gather together for worship. The organisation and language of collective worship at Treeton Church of England Primary School, allows for different levels of response. It invites not coerces.

Ethos and Mission Statement

The Christian ethos and belief is at the heart of every day school life and the foundation of all our aims for the children in our care.

At Treeton C of E Primary we aim to create a caring, happy environment where children feel safe and secure and are able to reach their full potential; socially, academically, physically and spiritually, and where every child is aware of Christian ideal, sees and is part of Christianity in action. We aim to ensure that our children use their God-given gifts to be the best they can be, so that they can 'let their light shine' (Matthew 5:16) to the world. We aim to instil our visions of respect, courage and faith in all our pupils through our worship and praise.

Treeton Church of England Primary School, established upon Christian foundations, and living out the Christian faith, is committed to providing every child with an excellent education.

Our Christian values and faith leads us to fulfil this by:

- Creating a secure, caring and forgiving environment;
- Providing excellence in teaching and learning to enable each child to realise their full potential;
- Valuing and respecting each and every individual;
- Fostering a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world in which we live;
- Equipping every child with the life skills and confidence to make a positive contribution and to exercise their gifts and talents;
- Nurturing respect for other faiths;
- Working in partnership with home, Church and the wider community;
- Experiencing worship, thankfulness and celebration at the heart of school life.

In summary everything will lead to the following Christian values being found in our school community:

Personal values: Humility, endurance, thankfulness, reverence and wisdom;

Relational values: Trust, service, compassion, friendship, forgiveness and peace;

Community values: Justice, hope, creation and fellowship.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship on religious grounds. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Arrangements for collective worship in schools are the responsibility of the Trust in consultation with the Headteacher. Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Trust and Local School Board in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

Rationale

The Trust Deed and school ethos statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship in Treeton Church of England Primary School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Aims

We believe that children have a spiritual side to their being that requires them to want to make contact with God. We also believe that it is the school's responsibility to provide children with the opportunity to learn about and participate in acts of worship.

Each experience of Collective Worship will be positive and will encourage a thoughtful response. The Christian ethos of the school will be explored and expressed by engaging with spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God;
- come to an understanding of their spirituality;
- explore their feelings, reflect on questions and examine convictions about the purpose and meaning of life;
- begin to come to an understanding of the human spirit;
- begin to come to an understanding of the Godly spirit;
- build a relationship and friendship with God;
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer, as well as quiet reflection or personal prayer.
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- build a respect and tolerance for each other.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective worship makes a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils. When planning, preparing and leading worship we consider the following ways in which worship can make such a contribution:

a) To spiritual development by (for example):

- Encouraging children to consider their own values and attitudes
 - Reflecting on human experience
 - Exploring their own and other peoples' beliefs
 - Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- b) Providing opportunities to see from another person's perspective

b) To moral development by (for example):

- Developing a sense of right and wrong
- Examining motives for actions
- Encouraging consideration towards others
- Developing pupil's awareness of the needs of others and a sense of courageous advocacy.
- Promoting honesty and integrity
- Exploring issues of evil and suffering
- Encouraging moral behaviour

c) To Social Development by (for example):

- Listening to the views of others
- Promoting good relationships between individuals and groups
- Promoting concern for those with special needs
- Communicating with increasing confidence
- Encouraging concern for the common good and the good of others

d) To Cultural Development by (for example):

- Enabling discussion from different cultural perspectives
- Encouraging pupils to see the worth of them selves, their family, religion; beliefs and culture
- Enabling pupils to encounter people from other cultures
- Promoting interest in culture and its expression

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their son/daughter from Religious Education and from the Acts of Collective Worship on religious grounds.

Organisation

Worship takes place in different forms throughout the school year.

- Whole School Acts of Worship are on a Tuesday each week, led by the Worship Leaders. This will include a bible story or discussion of a wider issue, or commemorate a specific celebration from a variety of faiths. It will also include prayers, written by the worship leads, and music. A Candle is lit to start the worship and call/response used. There is an expectation that, should this assembly be cancelled for any reason, there will be a class assembly instead.
- There are two separate Key Stage assemblies each week, focusing on Gospels in Schools and Picture News (looking at our wider world)

- There are class assemblies each week, using My Happy Mind (Whole school wellness and mental health support programme)
- On Thursdays there is a singing assembly, led by a teacher within school.
- Church Services are held to celebrate special times in the church calendar. The size of the church prohibits all the children to attend at the same time but Harvest Festival and Carol Services are held in church for Key Stage 2 children. Christingle Services are held there for Foundation and Key Stage 1 children.
- Eucharist and Worship Services are held at the end of each term where children from across the school share leading the theme of the service with the minister. They may also contribute their arts and music talents. At the end of the Spring term a Eucharist service is held. The children take part in leading the service and the minister leads the ministry of the Sacrament. The service is designed to engage and ensure participation in a format that celebrates the children's talents whilst at the same time bringing them to an understanding of Holy Communion and of what being a full member of the church means. On occasions, the Bishop of Sheffield or Doncaster may take part in these services.
- Special Mention Assemblies are held every three weeks within each Key Stage and are designed to celebrate the children's talents and achievements. Work done over the previous fortnight is shown to the school family and instances where children have been particularly thoughtful and helpful are celebrated. The emphasis is to thank God for our talents and to bring weekly achievements before God.
- Each term every class will hold a Class Curriculum Achievement Assembly to which parents are invited. This showcases work completed in class and enables pupils to share their achievements outside school.
- There are regular assemblies delivered by the Open the Book team, to both KS1 and LKS2 classes.
- Group activities (such as music groups, choir etc) may take place during collective worship as long as these group activities start with an act of collective worship (for example beginning with a prayer).

Worship Environment

Each act of worship takes place using an appropriate focal point.

- In the hall, there is a focal point for worship, which has a bible, cross and candle. The candle is lit to mark the beginning of worship and collective responses made. The candle is extinguished to symbolise the end of worship. Music linked to the theme of the assembly, or chosen to promote quiet reflection is played at the beginning and end of each assembly and children and adults are expected to enter the hall in thoughtful silence to help them to focus.
- In classrooms, there is a focal point for worship which holds a Bible, cross and candle. The candle is lit to mark the beginning of worship and collective responses made. The candle is extinguished to symbolise the end of worship.

Planning and Recording

Key Stage assemblies have been planned by SLT in consultation with the worship leads, and respond to key events in the Christian calendar.

Class assemblies follow a 1 year programme of topics for each year group and each class has been provided with a book to support this.

Other resource books, and website details are kept by the Worship Co-ordinator for use by staff when required.

Class assemblies are recorded by the class teacher on the sheet provided. These are collected at the end of each half term by the Worship Co-ordinator for monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Head Teacher and Trust with support from the Local School Board are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship. This is done through:

- regular observations of key stage and class Collective Worship by the Worship Co-ordinator or Local School Board;
- pupil voice
- parent questionnaires

The evaluation of Collective Worship leads us to review and improve our practice, to respond to and meet the changing needs of our school community and to ensure that statutory requirements are met to the highest possible standards.

13. Role of the Worship Lead

The Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility to:

- keep up-to-date with specialist knowledge,
- attend relevant courses and feed back to staff,
- offer support and advice to colleagues and assist with their planning
- monitor and evaluate assemblies
- plan and deliver staff INSET,
- maintain, review and develop resources,
- liaise with the parish priest and other religious leaders.

Links to other policies

This policy links closely with policies for Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Curriculum, PHSE, Behaviour, RE

Link Local School Board Member: Mr E Short

Worship Co-ordinator: Emma Minhas