

# Thurlbear CE VA Primary School –Collective Worship Policy

## Appendix

### Collective Worship timetable

The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The current theme for worship is displayed and children are reminded to reflect on this as they enter and wait for worship to begin. The worship always begins with 'The Peace of God be with you' and the children respond with 'And also with you.' The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer and a blessing which everyone says together.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Collective Worship</b> to reflect our school vision, values, Christian Values, the church of England Vision of Education, the church calendar, our school ethos and current events.	2.50pm	Mr Gillan	Whole school
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Key Stage Worship</b> Timetable of planned worships by the deputy head planned around the ½ term Christian Value incorporating a bible story / verse	2.50pm	Led by teachers on a rolling program. Pupils from the teachers class often help to lead	Key Stage
<b>Wednesday</b>	Class worship Reflection on values as a class	2.50pm	Class teachers	Whole school
<b>Thursday</b>	Ministry / Singing through Worship	2.50pm	Ministry team / Jo Davenport	Whole school
<b>Friday</b>	Celebration Worship to reflect our school values, Christian Values, celebration	2.45pm	Led and planned by children, classes and their teachers.  Parents are invited	Whole school

### School Prayer:

**Lord, guide me on the path I should go,  
 Help me see the ways I can grow,  
 Thankfulness, Hope, Friendship, Wisdom and  
 Trust,  
 These values help me be kind and just.**

**Amen.**



## Thurlbear CE VA Primary School – Collective Worship Policy

This Policy should be taken and used as part of Thurlbear Church of England VA School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision to **“Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old, they will not depart from it,”** and our values: **Hope, Friendship, Thankfulness, Trust and Wisdom** as a Church of England School.

This policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with staff and governors, and will be reviewed every 3 years. The Christian foundation of the school ensures that the spiritual development of the children and Christian values have a particular emphasis within the whole life of the school. In accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level we aim to develop within our children not only an awareness of self and sensitivity to others, but also the acquisition of a set of moral values and the confidence to make moral judgements and develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Collective worship is central to the life of Thurlbear C of E School. Daily Collective Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the school vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

### The Act of Collective Worship will:

- Take place every day
- Be of a clearly Christian character: 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.
- Be inclusive which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the gospels. Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral values and capacity for enjoyment.
- Be educational
- Be inclusive and invitational.

### Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the **values of friendship, trust, wisdom, thankfulness and hope**. 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.

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community;
- 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 to their own and learn more about how to stay mentally healthy and to understand their own mental health better.

Educational Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values ;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

**Inclusive** Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus we welcome children and staff of all faiths. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

#### **Organisation:**

**The Pattern of Collective Worship** Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, classrooms and on occasions outside and in local churches within the parishes. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

**Leading worship** Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community (Rector, Children's benefice worker, Open the Book team). Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

**Planning Acts of Collective Worship** Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. The Headteacher will keep a record of all Acts of Collective Worship themes. **Prayer is a vital part of our worship.** It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. The school has its own school prayer reflecting the school values. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. The school liaises and seeks support from the diocesan education department in the planning and delivery of its collective worship.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- **The governing body** has overall responsibility of the Collective Worship Policy, the School Evaluation Form (SEF) acknowledges the SIAMS Action Plan Key Issues.
- **The Collective Worship coordinators** are the Rector, the Collective Worship/R.E. Leader, and the Ethos Committee, who will review the policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.
  - Each Act of Worship led by school is planned onto a PowerPoint or a script and kept electronically in a folder.
  - Collective Worship is observed and monitored by school staff, pupils and governors.
  - **The collective-worship co-ordinator alongside the Head teacher** is responsible for: Personnel involved in leading worship, including learners; timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils; planning of worship, including its relationship to core values; monitoring and evaluation procedures; taking account of SIAMS requirements as applicable to the specific situation; opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day.

#### **Equal Opportunities**

Equal opportunities, special needs issues and racial equality issues are acknowledged in our collective worship themes, PSHE, circle time and R.E. teaching.

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the head teacher.

#### **Why is Collective Worship important and distinctive at Thurlbear?**

Y6 pupil: "We are guided by the worship to think and feel about God. It gets us all together as a school. I get time to think and feel the way I like." Our vision and approach to our Collective Worship should involve our pupils at every opportunity and explicitly call to their own lives through the life of Jesus and his teachings, healings, words and actions. Our "**Peace of God**" welcoming and "**May God with you**" is accompanied by the reply: "And also with you (name)" as we feel it is vital that all pupils have the feeling that **we** know them, **pupils** know them, **God** knows them and we all value them. Each class also has an opportunity on a Friday cycle to show their families their learning in RE, by means of a Class Collective Worship. As a whole school, we gather and a class reflects on a particular Christian Value. This can be through the media of dance, art, drama or speaking and listening and is greatly valued by all of our school community.

We must also take the opportunity to engage with our family of churches when joining in Collective worship at every opportunity. St Thomas', St Mary's, St Peter's and St Michael's are churches where try and take our worships at every opportunity and these are planned out by the staff at regular intervals.