



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**APPROVED:** September 2017  
**RATIFIED:** September 2017  
**REVIEW:** September 2020

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Terling Church of England Primary School exists to serve its Parish and Community by promoting excellence in academic, creative and spiritual learning.

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ the schools seeks to provide a happy, safe and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents, governors and visitors feel secure loved and respected.

Terling Church of England Primary School encourages all:

- Through WORK, to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God
- Through WORSHIP, to learn to know and love God and recognise the person of Christ in others
- Through WITNESS to celebrate the gospel messages including justice and peace

Terling Church of England Primary School is a caring school community, where everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. Here individuals are helped to achieve their full potential, through a child centred curriculum, which develops independent learning and enables pupils to achieve their aspirations and goals. .

### **Specific aims:**

- To teach a Christian framework from which the children may make sense of life and from which children will learn to pray and worship by engaging in regular acts of worship.
- To encourage children to develop the skills and aptitude for spiritual and moral growth.
- To foster a sense of belonging and worth.
- To provide children with opportunities for awe and wonder.
- To widen children's experience of life through outside speakers and assemblies.

Terling Church of England Primary School believes that Christian worship gives glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action to God's invitation to enter into relationship, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ.

### **The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of Our School:**

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions, or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain

We will continue to foster and deepen the children's personal relationship with God our Father daily in prayer. We do this by helping them become aware of God's Presence in their lives and of His love for them by leading them to respond to Him in a manner suited to their age. This may be in one of the following ways:

- Prayer of silence
- Spontaneous prayer
- Praying through gesture or action
- Formal prayer

Prayer will not be confined to an act of worship. Children are encouraged to pray during the day.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life.

### **The Aims of Collective Worship:**

We believe that Collective Worship in our Terling Church of England Primary School aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce prayers that are part of Christianity distinctiveness
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To make time to 'wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

*Assemblies are held in accordance with the law, the statutes of the Church of England and the foundation of the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship on religious grounds.*

**The pattern of worship is as follows-**

Day	Time	Grouping	Leader
Monday	9am	Whole School Worship Hymn Practice	Headteacher
Tuesday	2:30	Class based Collective Worship	Pupils / Class teacher
Wednesday	2:30	Whole School	Co-ordinated by different class teachers.
Thursday	2:30	Whole School	Rector
Friday	2:30	Whole School	Headteacher

**The pattern is as follows-**

Day	Theme
Monday	Thematic Music based - Hymn Pupil involvement
Tuesday	Thematic
Wednesday	Themed Pupil involvement
Thursday	Thematic (Rector) Pupil involvement
Friday	Sharing of work / achievements / celebration

**Themes:**

The themes of worship are varied, with set themes for the week or term that are organised on a daily pattern. Great flexibility is achieved through a mixture of planned themes and space that allows for personal choice or a reflection of current events and interests.

**Thematic**

The themes used as a basis of materials for assemblies can be taken from 'Seedtime' of the LEA agreed syllabus for Religious Education, Barnabas in Schools website, Assemblies.org or suggestions from the diocesan syllabus. Particular themes may be biblical or specifically chosen to relate to other areas of school life.

**Music based**

Music assemblies are based on a song or a hymn and relate to the meaning in order that the children are properly prepared to sing them in worship.

**Rector's Theme**

This varies and allows the Rector to introduce aspects of Church life, festivals etc., to the pupils.

**Sharing work / Achievements**

The final act of worship for the week allows for the celebration of the week's achievements in school (personal & academic achievements by pupils).

**Foundation Stage Pupils:**

Although not required by law to have a daily act of worship the school does involve the pupils in worship. They attend all assemblies.

**Church Services:**

The school meets for worship in the Church on four occasions, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leaver's Service.

**Prayers:**

A wide range of prayers and times for reflection are used, some set prayers are used. Use is also made of children's written prayers and of extempore prayer. A quiet reflective time of silence is also used on occasions.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Throughout the year, as part of the school's monitoring calendar, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of pupils and whether it truly reflects the aims and mission of the school.

**Resources:**

There are many resources available for planning Collective Worship. These are stored centrally in the hall and are reviewed regularly as part of the RE Coordinator's monitoring role. There are several Internet sites that are also a useful resource for planning.

**Legal Requirements:**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head teacher.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors

Signed ..... (Chair of Governors) Date .....

Signed ..... (Headteacher) Date .....