



Christ Church & Holy Trinity CE Primary Schools Federation Collective Worship Policy November 2021

Our shared vision for Christ Church and Holy Trinity Schools

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus Christ tells us that God is like a generous farmer and we are like the soil in which he plants his seeds.

At Christ Church and Holy Trinity Schools, we are learning how to be good soil, so that we grow to love God, our neighbour and ourselves and thereby enable every member of our community to flourish.

Each day, we endeavour to face up to all that challenges our growth, in order to see with our eyes, hear with our ears and understand with our hearts God's Good News for the world and to cultivate the virtues with which to produce an abundant harvest.

Our Federation Mission Statement

Christ Church and Holy Trinity CofE Primary Schools are dedicated to providing a nurturing environment in which all children have the opportunities to reach their maximum academic and social and spiritual potential. Excellent teaching, learning and relationships are at the heart of all we do.

As Church of England schools our vision and practice is shaped by our Christian values and virtues. For all our children, those core virtues of Kindness, Hope, Justice, Forgiveness, Wisdom, Peace, Generosity and Love will be the foundation of their educational experience and inspire and draw together every aspect of school life. Our staff team recognise their responsibility to model these virtues for others.

We understand that all children develop their own unique relationship with God. For some this is nurtured within the home, whilst others receive their first awareness of the Christian faith and the life of the Church at school. We believe that our Christian identity asks of us a sensitivity to and respect for those of other faiths and none, and shapes

our understanding of what it means to be an inclusive community of hospitality and welcome.

Aims and purpose

At Christ Church and Holy Trinity we are committed to offering high quality collective worship that is invitational, inclusive and inspiring. In our daily acts of worship we aim to provide an opportunity for the whole school community:

- to worship God freely
- to grow spiritually
- to nurture virtues for daily living
- to appreciate the relevance of faith for today's world
- to learn how to participate and respond in public worship
- to deepen community
- to promote shared values and positive attitudes
- to experience the diversity of approaches to Christian worship
- to enable pupils and staff to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Collective worship

Given the Christian identity of our Church of England Primary Schools, the majority of acts of collective worship are broadly Christian. Our assemblies draw their inspiration from the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Bible and the traditions of the Christian Church. We expect both children and adults alike to take an active part. However, we aim to ensure that collective worship offers a welcoming place that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and so seek to create a culture in which participants are invited to worship and pray but are not compelled to do so. We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented at Christ Church and Holy Trinity and in the wider community in which our schools are set.

We seek to offer collective worship that enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who they are and why they do what we do, that motivates them into thinking and acting differently and think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and philosophical convictions

Provision

Acts of collective worship in our Federation reflect the different needs and contexts of our two schools.

At Christ Church, we hold one daily act of collective worship in the afternoon. The whole school is brought together on three days and Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 (in two groups) on two days.

At Holy Trinity, we hold one daily act of collective worship in either the morning or the afternoon. Whole school assemblies are rarely held as neither of the school halls is large enough.

Assemblies take different forms across the school week:

- Whole school assemblies (at Christ Church)
- separate Key Stage 1 and 2 Assemblies (in both schools)
- Assemblies in classrooms
- Singing assemblies
- Clergy assemblies
- 'Special Mentions' assemblies

Assemblies seek to be both reflective and vibrant. Year groups enter a hall, that has been prepared by the leader and class monitors, in a dignified and respectful way to the sound of music. A table or altar acts as a focal point with a cross and candle and a cloth reflecting the liturgical colour of the day.

A simple liturgy begins each assembly involving a greeting and the lighting of a candle. Normally, a theme is then presented, an object or picture introduced, a Bible story told, a song sung and a prayer said (often with the Lord's Prayer in addition). Assembly ends with the extinguishing of the candle and a simple form of dismissal.

Children and adults come to learn that collective worship is a special time in which all are expected to behave in an appropriate way. Quiet and thoughtful attention to what is being said is sought as well as wholehearted participation in prayers and hymns where appropriate.

The schools' Christian vision, rooted in the Parable of the Sower, proposes that *"Each day, we endeavour to face up to all that challenges our growth"* and so moments to admit to poor choices and to welcome fresh starts are often included.

In each hall the Christian vision is featured on a large banner, underlining our desire to *'enable every member of our community to flourish.'*

Parents are invited to attend assemblies on a regular basis and the presence of school governors is always welcomed.

Leadership

Assemblies may be led by the Headteacher, other members of staff, a class or the clergy. On occasion, and especially for class assemblies, children take the leader's role.

On Fridays, 'Special Mentions' assemblies are held in the parish churches normally led by the Headteacher with the music teacher and a member of the clergy present. These assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements, both in and out of school, are recognised. Often they will be led by a class who will share work they have done with the rest of the school.

Planning

Planning is undertaken collectively between the Senior Leadership Team and the clergy well in advance of the day that assemblies take place.

We have adopted eight Christian virtues that form the basis of our worship and wider school life: Kindness, Hope, Justice, Forgiveness, Wisdom, Peace, Generosity and Love. Each virtue is explored for about half a term and all worship is planned around it. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each virtue is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Sometimes the themes of assemblies reflect and build on topics that are taught as part of the school curriculum.

Festivals

In addition to assemblies, the main events of the liturgical year are celebrated by the whole school through music, drama and prayerful reflection. Children throughout the school contribute to these celebrations.

At Christ Church three celebrations of the Eucharist are held every year (one per term) in the parish church. At Holy Trinity, Liturgies of the Word are held either at Holy Trinity Church or in the school playground. Parents and family members are invited to join in the celebration of these liturgies where appropriate.

Developing expertise

We seek to ensure that:

- Staff and clergy are given access to regular training, primarily through the London Diocesan Board for Schools, as well as high quality and written resources.
- Children are supported, encouraged and resourced to design and lead acts of worship.
- The Governing Board has robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice, feedback and evaluation for those facilitating worship.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned.

Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988

Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. This has never been an issue in the school to date.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of two named governors, presently Fr. Brian Leathard at Christ Church and Fr. Nicholas Wheeler at Holy Trinity, with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed:

Avis Hawkins
November
2021

Name of School

Christ Church & Holy Trinity Cof E Primary Schools

Policy review Date

November 2021

Date of next Review

November 2023

Who reviewed this policy? Ratified by the Full Governing Body

Full Governing Body, Partnerships Committee, Camilla Nelson, Donna Verity and Avis Hawkins

November 2021