

Collective Worship Policy

The 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) requires, “All pupils in attendance at a maintained school” to “take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.” (ERA Section 6 (1).

At Titchmarsh Church of England Primary School we will:

- Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- Provide opportunities for pupils to consider moral issues and to explore own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in with the worship offered.
- Develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, reinforcing positive attitudes.
- Give pupils the opportunity to respond to things of worth.
- Contribute to the moral and spiritual development of our pupils
- Provide opportunities for the development of the skills of reflection
- Respect the integrity of all
- Use the bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observe the cycle of the Anglican year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We will also refer to specific Saints Days.
- Learn traditional responses and prayers, thus expressing the essential beliefs of Christians
- Provide opportunities for meditation and silence during worship
- Offer pupils the opportunity to learn about and to celebrate, shared values and beliefs from other faiths
- Encourage an acceptance of all, regardless of age, race, gender or religious opinion

School Worship shall:

Be an affirmation and celebration of the values and ethos of the school.

Reinforce our school Christian Values of Friendship, Love, Hope, Respect, Honest and Faith.

Provide a period of time for reflection, contemplation and stillness.

Follow the Northamptonshire SACRE Guidance that the Act of Worship shall:

- Be broadly Christian
- Respect the integrity of all present

Provide an opportunity for all to respond to things of worth. This will involve:

- Participation
- Observation
- Recognition of and response to, the spiritual dimension of human experience
- Participation through singing hymns or appropriate songs listening to music
- Reading or listening to words of scripture or other appropriate readings

Contribute to and support the school aims, those particularly relevant are as follows:

It is our aim to:

- Encourage each child to mature into an independent, caring responsible individual
- Provide a caring environment in which the highest standards of behaviour are expected and positively reinforced
- Create a happy purposeful environment in which to work and play
- Provide equal opportunities for everyone in the whole school community

Personal, Spiritual and Moral Education

This can be further developed by giving consideration to the following: listening to stories, taking part in plays, sharing experiences, etc.

We will focus on compassion, concern, consideration, conviction, co-operation, corporate responsibility, forgiveness, honesty, humility, integrity, mercy, perseverance, respect, self-knowledge, self-reliance, self-sacrifice, tolerance and trust.

Participation by children encourages others to listen and can be developed by, for example: circle time, sharing experiences/ideas and offering solutions.

Demonstrations of: hobbies/skills, this encourages personal development of children.

Use of artefacts/visual aids.

Use of Music

Raising self-esteem in a variety of ways and providing opportunities to challenge stereotypes.

Guidance

Pupils shall be given the opportunity to develop skills of reflection. Reflection is more beneficial when the invitation is given to reflect upon a specific topic or idea.

Reflection can be religious or non-religious and can be aided by consistent and regular reinforcement of expectations.

The worship experience of pupils should involve the opportunity to reflect, be thankful and to celebrate. These experiences should be directed at school values and personal values.

NB. It must be borne in mind that worship at Titchmarsh Church of England Primary School should reflect some of the essential features from the rich traditions of our Anglican heritage. Therefore, language and prayer that is appropriate should frequently be used.

Quality Worship:

Is based upon planning of themes

Involves pupils

Encourages and helps others to listen

Emphasises quality and not quantity

Involves visiting speakers

Offers open access to assembly

It is the current practice to invite parents and friends to attend specific whole school celebrations, e.g. Christmas and Harvest. The services are held either in the school hall or the village church of St Mary's. Parents and friends are invited to and welcome to attend the regular school church services which are held in the Church of St Mary's.

Pupils and staff attend services in the village church.

Year 4 children are also invited to join with the local cluster for the Candlemas celebration annually.

Organisation

Acts of Worship and assembly are held at 9.05am on Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays. We visit church, usually monthly, on a Wednesday morning. On Fridays a 'sharing assembly' is held in the school hall with merit certificates awarded to pupils nominated by staff members.

Acts of Worship and Collective Worship are lead either by the Executive Head teacher, Head of School or by staff members.

Planning

A record of the content and character of each Act of Collective Worship and Assembly is retained within school.

Parental Concerns

All parental letters dealing with concerns or desires about Collective Worship are retained and filed.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents are required to inform the school of their decision in writing.

Parents may arrange for alternative provision for their children.

The school informs parents of supervision arrangements.

Teachers and Staff

Staff are required to contribute to the moral, spiritual development of their pupils.

They will, on occasions, be required to attend Collective Worship but may withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship, thus exercising their legal right.

They will not be required to lead an Act of Worship if they exercise their right of non-participation.