



Tenterden Church of England Junior School
Perseverance Faithfulness Respect Love

'With God as our companion, we learn, grow and flourish'



Tenterden Church of England Junior School Collective Worship Policy

Policy approved: November 2019

Review due: November 2021

Our Vision

As a welcoming Church school we aspire to provide care and support for each other and the wider community. Through the practical application of Christian values and a positive growth mind-set our pupils challenge themselves to be independent, inquisitive and knowledgeable; a positive influence on society.

Our Collective Worship policy is designed to support this vision and has been written with input from all stakeholders to aid consistency and fairness.

1. Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community; whether Christian, other faith or no faith. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is central to our ethos and will be predominantly Christian in appearance but may reflect the faiths of others within our community. It is supported by all staff.

2. Pupils

A number of pupils are from families who attend Sunday worship, mostly in Anglican churches, and some of these children have Sunday School experience. There are a few children from other faith communities and ethnic minority groups.

3. Aims and Objectives

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and through reference to our Core Christian Values, contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- to reflect on our Core Christian Values whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- to reflect on their own beliefs.
- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for, and an understanding of, different beliefs.
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of children coming together.
- To have opportunities to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

4. Achievement of Aims

Organisation

- Takes place daily
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils,
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff and governors are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school hall, classroom or at St. Mildred's Church.
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- To reflect upon our core Christian values: perseverance, faithfulness, respect and love.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Learn and say prayers from a number of sources.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.
- Use Anglican sentences and responses (*e.g The Lord be with you, - and also with you*)

5. Planning

The basis of our planning is the 'Fresh Approach to Collective Worship' scheme available on the Canterbury Diocese website. The planning is discussed, and adapted if necessary, in each preceding term by the Churches and Schools Together (CAST) Group including teaching staff and governors from both Tenterden Junior and St. Michael's Primary School and the Rector of both St. Mildred's and St. Michael's

Church. It is also shared with our Pupil Worship Leaders who are being trained to plan and participate in future Collective Worship.

6. Staff Attendance

We recognise the value of staff attendance at acts of worship. Their presence underlines a sense of togetherness and partnership in the school community and provides a valuable link between Collective Worship and classroom life.

7. Staff Development

It is important that all staff engaged in providing an act of worship should have proper support and guidance. We recognise that training will heighten confidence leading to increased expertise, especially for in-class worship, which they lead on a weekly basis.

8. Resources

Music, story books, teaching materials and other aids are available in school for the use of all staff. Every year's budget includes resources for Collective Worship.

9. Withdrawal

We value the opportunity given by the acts of worship to create a shared spiritual experience for staff and pupils. However, we do recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship if they so wish. This should be done by way of a letter addressed to the Executive Headteacher.

10. Monitoring, Review and Effectiveness of the Policy

The Executive Headteacher has responsibility for the day to day operation of this policy. The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the governors in accordance with the policy planner and they will report to the full Governing Body every two years.

Signature of Chair of Governors _____

Policy agreed:

The nature of Acts of Worship

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.