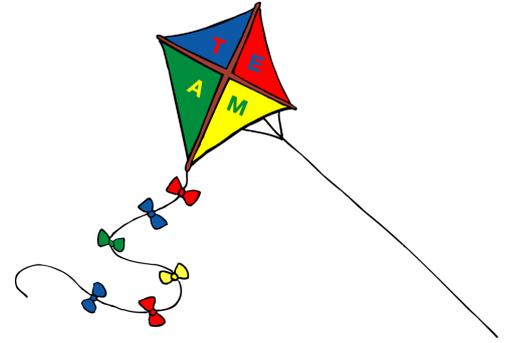


Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Scope, Rationale and Aim of the Policy:

Twyford St. Mary's C of E Primary School has a sense of community, a long history of a strong Christian ethos and good Anglican links.

Our aim is –

- for acts of worship to reflect the positive features of the Christian faith and Community, in particular, the school key Christian values of 'Courage, Joy, Care and Respect'
- to model and encourage response to Christian practice, thoughts, and values in the school and wider community
- to respect and encourage each child's individual response to worship
- for each child to have the opportunity to attend a daily act of worship as an integral part of the school's Christian ethos
- to encourage the Christian values of 'Courage, Joy, Care and Respect', not just in acts of worship but embedded in school ethos as seen in classroom displays related to assemblies and classroom prayers

The Policy:

ACTS OF WORSHIP

We think acts of worship can offer or encourage:

- an enjoyment of being together which results from sharing love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anxieties, sadness and forgiveness
- an awareness and a concern for the needs of others as well as our own
- a time and space for thinking and reflecting alone and with others as a community
- the experience of being active members of a caring community by fostering an atmosphere of love, kindness and security
- an opportunity and atmosphere of worship for those who wish to worship
- a creative, imaginative and questioning investigation of belief and aspects of worship within a Christian framework and a response, in a variety of ways, to a system of belief in an open and honest atmosphere
- a sharing of experience, personal values and viewpoints and respect for others belief
- a search for meaning in the midst of life's mysteries or problems
- a celebration of life
- a sense of awe, curiosity, wonder and mystery at life and the world around us
- an expression of and growth in our spirituality

Acts of worship will also :-

- celebrate in songs, hymns and other ways
- help children respond collectively in statements of belief, prayer, reflection, silence or other kinaesthetic acts of reflection e.g. a cross or other artefacts, lighting a candle
- encourage the children to respond beyond the assembly hall and integrate their learning and reflection in their wider lives

INCLUSION

- Acts of worship will respect all children present and their individual response to spirituality
- A majority of the acts of worship will be Christian
- Other acts of worship will be representative of other religions to enable an outward looking view beyond Twyford and will reflect the intercultural modern society in which children live. As a church school we are committed to children of all faiths or none. Diversity of religion, race and culture is felt to be of positive benefit, enriching both our school worship and our school community
- All forms of prayers will be by invitation and the children will be given time for free thought. Christian belief can be prefaced 'Christians believe', 'Jesus taught'

FEATURES OF ACTS OF WORSHIP

- Acts of worship will include all the children and adults present.
- Across the year, acts of worship will include major Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. If these take place at St. Mary's church then these will replace the school act of worship.
- An annual Leavers' Service will celebrate the achievements of Year 6.
- In November a Remembrance Service is held in the school playground or in the hall.
- Community acts of worship will include visitors from the local community and be open to parents.
- Children will be encouraged to participate in acts of worship through giving their views, drama, song and leading prayers.
- Charitable giving - through the Year 6 challenge and other school events
- Acts of worship to follow a weekly pattern

Monday	Head teacher assembly linked to theme
Tuesday	Class worship linked to theme
Wednesday	Global and multicultural issues / events linking to theme
Thursday	Led by local vicar or HT
Friday	Celebration

- The above acts of worship will follow Christian themes. These themes to be agreed and resourced by the staff.

'For those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment acts of worship can provide an opportunity when their deepest thoughts and emotions may be expressed in communion with God '(Barton et al 1999)

RESOURCES

Resources such as stories and prayers are chosen with sensitivity and care taking into account the children's ages and backgrounds. Resources are to be found on the R.E. shelves and in the personal collections of the staff who regularly lead worship.

As the children go through school there is value in introducing them to some of the prayers of the Christian tradition, such as the Lord's Prayer and others which, if simple and meaningful, may eventually be learned by heart.

WITHDRAWING CHILDREN FROM ACTS OF WORSHIP

Parents have the right under the 1994, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts, to withdraw their children from collective worship and the school will make provision where this is requested by a parent/carer.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy:

The Standards and Curriculum Committee will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of this policy. It will be monitored by governors attending Community and Celebration assemblies. In addition, in her termly report to governors, the head teacher includes details of services and celebrations.

In addition, Twyford St. Mary's will be subject to a section 48 Ofsted inspection by the appropriate Diocesan inspectors.

Roles and Responsibilities within the Policy:

- A member of the school staff will be responsible for co-ordinating acts of worship with the Head teacher. They will produce a schedule of acts of worship.
- All staff will have the opportunity to lead collective worship.
- Each term's acts of worship will be linked to themes chosen by the co-ordinator in liaison with the Head teacher.
- Visiting leaders will be welcome, e.g. local church leaders, Youth Team, governors, especially at Community assemblies.
- Guests who lead collective worship will be given the theme to ensure continuity and coverage.

Legislative references that relate to the policy

1994, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts - Withdrawing children from acts of Worship

Approved by governing body : 2nd December 2015

Date of next review: Autumn 2018