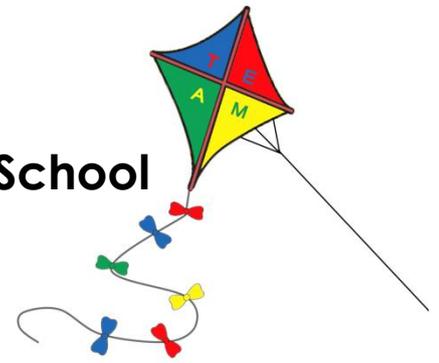


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# Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



### Rationale

We are a Church of England school deeply committed to our children, parents and the village community we serve. Our Christian values of courage, care, joy and respect contribute to the well-being and spiritual development of the school community. This is evident in all our relationships and work throughout the school where all are welcomed equally irrespective of their own personal beliefs. We are the village school making a world of difference.

We have a long history of strong, Anglican links and we are proud to provide all pupils with an educational experience that sets them on their own spiritual journey. Throughout this journey, we never expect children to be Christians, nor do we seek to convert them.

Our aim is:

- To instil a shared sense of belonging together to celebrate the values and ethos of the school and community.
- To grow in spirituality through reflection and contemplation.
- To teach and explore fundamental values, including our Christian values, using a range of engaging stimuli.
- To encourage a positive contribution to the well-being of each other, their community and the wider world.

At TSM, our worships include distinctively Christian elements because we are proud to be a Church of England school with strong links with our parish church, St Mary's. Therefore, using and learning about Christian traditions is important to strengthen these links. We value and take pride in the uplifting sense of reverence Christian ceremony offers.

So because we are a church school, we:

- Share bible stories and the teachings of Jesus where children learn about the messages they carry.
- Develop the understanding of the Christian Trinitarian nature of God.
- Invite members of the clergy in to lead worship.
- Celebrate Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Ascension, Pentecost and Easter, visiting the church for many of these occasions.
- Offer the opportunity to grow spiritually through praise and prayer.

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During Collective Worship, we also learn about other religions, world faiths and worldviews. To enrich this learning, we invite other faith leaders into worship to enable an outward looking view beyond our own. This is because, as a church school, we are committed to children of all faiths or none. Diversity of region, race and culture enriches both our school worship and our school community.

Therefore, worship is not about:

- Teaching children that they should adopt certain values because God expects these. We teach these values because our school, our community, and society, expects them.
- Using bible stories for the sake of it. When a bible story helps powerfully illustrate a message, then we use it.
- 'Worshipping' as an expression for the adoration of God. We do not expect all children to be Christian, nor are we trying to make converts of them so we often use the term 'assembly' rather than 'worship'.

## **Inclusion**

Acts of worship will respect all children present and their individual response to spirituality. Many acts of worship will have a distinctively Christian basis but also explore different people's faiths, feelings and values. Other acts of worship will be representative of other religions to enable an outward looking view beyond our locality and will reflect the intercultural, modern society in which we live.

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'

## **Withdrawing children from Acts of Worship**

Parents have the right under the 1994, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts, to withdraw their children from part of or all collective worship and the school will make provision where this is requested by a parent/carer. Separate work planned by the teacher will be completed during this time. Withdrawal requests need to be made to the Headteacher.

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### **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy**

The governing body will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of this policy. It will be monitored by governors attending collective worships. In addition, in her half termly report to governors and within newsletters, the Headteacher will include details of services and celebrations.

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

### **Legislative references that relate to the policy**

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

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

The School Terms of Union

Approved by Governing Body - Summer 2022

Date of next review – Summer 2025