



Holy Trinity C. E. (A) Primary School, Cuckfield Collective Worship Policy

As a Church of England School we promote a Christian ethos where all are equally valued and appreciate that every individual is unique.

Introduction and Legal Background

As a Church of England Aided School the governors are responsible for ensuring that the school provides Christian Worship reflecting the Anglican Trust Deed and the ethos of the school. At Holy Trinity an act of worship is held every day, usually in the school hall. Sometimes the act of worship is held at Holy Trinity Church, eg. Harvest, Christmas and the end of the school year. A school Eucharist Service also takes place 1 x term for KS2, in Church under normal circumstances.

It is hoped that all children will attend the act of worship but governors respect the legal right of all parents to withdraw their child from worship.

Aims for Worship

- to introduce children to Christian worship in a variety of forms;
- to provide appropriate worship for children that brings them to a greater understanding of Jesus as the Son of God;
- to provide an appropriate atmosphere in which children can gain an awareness of spiritual aspects of life and worship;
- to foster a sense of a Christian, caring community where God is worshipped and each child and adult is valued through worship;
- to learn about the Anglican traditions by celebrating special days and festivals in our church calendar;
- to celebrate and develop the school's values and ethos;
- to provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection;
- to enable adults and children to worship together.

Arrangements for Collective Worship at Holy Trinity

We recognise the importance for creating the right atmosphere for worship. Children enter and leave the hall in a quiet way whilst music is played. Children are in a relaxed but ordered and secure environment and are encouraged to respond. The eldest children usually sit on benches/chairs, whilst others sit on the floor. The children face the cross and worship board.

The altar is used as a focal point during an act of worship. On the altar is placed a cross, candles, a bible and the children's prayer books and the altar cloth is changed.

Once a week the whole school gathers together for collective worship. At other times the infants and juniors meet separately. This may form part of a worship where the focus is on singing hymns or recognising and celebrating the children's achievements. Once a week there is a class worship.

Once for each Key stage each week, either a member of the Holy Trinity Church team or a member of Cuckfield Baptist church leads the act of worship. Children are encouraged to take part in acts of worship.

The Anglican Tradition

In reflecting the Anglican tradition the following will be explored in worship during the child's time at school:

- using the bible as a source of inspiration and learning;
- reflecting on Christian symbols and their use in worship (eg. Bread and wine, chalice, cross)
- observing the cycle of the Church's year and the holy days;
- using a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms to create a framework for worship;
- learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages, eg. The Lord's Prayer, the prayer of St Richard of Chichester
- providing opportunities to discover the value of reflection within the context of Christian worship;
- recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism (eg. inviting members of other local Christian denominations to lead worship).

Key Features of Good Worship

Regular elements of worship are as follows:

- a 'call' to worship at the beginning and 'grace' at the end of worship
- prayer – this may be said by all the children, led by the person leading the assembly;
- singing a hymn or song;
- a bible story;
- music for listening or reflection;
- short periods of silence;
- acknowledgement of children's birthdays, the birth of a new baby, new pupils or leavers;
- acknowledgement of children's achievements both inside and outside of the school;
- sharing resources with others, eg. participation in charity fund-raising events.

A combination of these features will occur in every act of worship, which will always include a prayer.

Arrangements for the Daily Act of Worship

At Holy Trinity we operate a cycle of worship. In a typical week there could be:

- acts of worship led by the headteacher and senior staff;
- acts of worship led by a visiting speaker from either Holy Trinity Church or Cuckfield Baptist Church (approximately 65% Holy Trinity:35% Cuckfield Baptist Church)
- acts of worship when children learn songs of worship including a prayer
- Class worship led by the class teachers
- achievement worship led by the headteacher or other Senior Members of staff which will include an act of worship
- 1 x term Eucharistic worship at Holy Trinity Church KS2.

Planning Worship Themes

Each term the RE co-ordinator plan the themes and publish them. These will include 2 worships using the current SEAL themes.

Prayers at other times

Each day children say grace before eating their lunch

At the end of the day teaching staff are asked to ensure a short prayer is said before the children leave for home.

Monitoring Worship

The teacher leading the whole school worship evaluates its effectiveness by filling in the assessment sheet. Pupils are asked about worship through School Council. Governors attend acts of worship when they visit the school during the school day.

The policy will be reviewed and approved regularly.

Established June 2003 and reviewed at least every other year since

Reviewed Jan 2016

Reviewed Dec 2017