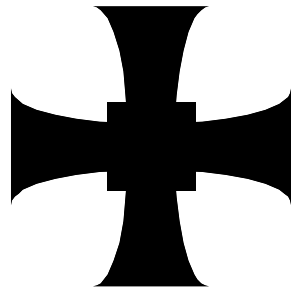


# TRINITY SCHOOL



A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Church Foundation Committee**

**Reviewed:** March 2017

**Approved by the Church Foundation Committee:** May 2017

**Ratified by the full Governing Body:** July 2017

**Next review:** March 2019

# Collective Worship

## Rationale

The law requires all schools to provide an act of collective worship for every student each day. The distinguishing feature of collective worship is that it must not assume or seek to impose a particular religion or set of beliefs. Trinity School has a Church of England foundation so the collective worship must be consistent with CE practices and belief. In Trinity, therefore, although appropriate to those of all faiths or no faith, collective worship includes materials which draw on Christian practice and ideas, for example, the Bible or other Christian writings, art or music. However, these will be balanced by similar materials from other faiths and secular organisations. The governors, along with the Co-Headteachers, are responsible for collective worship

In drawing up this policy the governors have considered the guidance from the Carlisle Diocese and the National Society of the Church of England and the DfE. The policy meets all statutory requirements.

Therefore collective worship:

- is provided for all students each day;
- does not seek to promote a particular faith or belief system but respects all students whether of the Christian faith, other faiths or no faith;
- uses a wide range of resources within large and small groupings;
- stimulates students to reflect on the school's Christian values, to develop their own understanding of themselves and their place in the world as well as their responsibilities to themselves and to others;
- promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each student.

## Aims

We will provide the opportunity for students and staff to gather in Houses, year groups and in their forms, so that we can:

- take part in a daily act of collective worship, and consider the spiritual aspects of being human;
- spend time in reflection on our own lives, on the important questions we all face, and on the wider life of the school community, our city, nation, and the world;
- participate actively via different means such as reading, acting, leading parts of an assembly;
- reinforce the values of the school community and its ethos;
- celebrate successes.

## **The School's Christian Ethos**

Collective worship has a key role in communicating and promoting the school's Christian values and in challenging our students to live their lives to the full, as described in John 10:10:

'I came so that they could have life and have it full to overflowing.'

Collective Worship (CW) actively:

- encourages students to develop their understanding of what 'overflowing life' might mean for them and for others;
- fosters compassion, trust, hope, endurance and community;
- develops tolerance and combats all forms of prejudice;
- promotes social responsibility, both for others and for the wider environment, with each House and the Sixth Form involved in charity projects and partnerships;
- encourages students to look after each other, to stay safe in their daily practices, and to choose healthy lifestyles;
- provides opportunities for students to relate to other communities including the wider local community, the Cathedral and other religious groups, and the global community;
- includes a wide range of resources from various countries, groups and cultures.

## **Roles and responsibilities of the Co-Headteachers, of other staff and of Governors**

The **Co-Headteachers** will ensure that:

- the governing body is briefed on the arrangements for collective worship. (This will be done through the Church Foundation Governors' Committee.)
- a daily act of collective worship is provided for all students, within the constraints of the capacity of the school's assembly halls. (Where this is not possible, material will be provided for each form to spend time in reflection each day.)
- alternative supervision is arranged for students who are withdrawn from collective worship.
- a rota is drawn up which ensures that the school makes effective use of its spaces for collective worship and arranges for the leading of the school's assemblies.
- the delivery of worship is monitored and evaluated and that appropriate professional development or support is provided for staff leaders.

The **Chaplain** will ensure that:

- quality resources to support challenging and inspirational CW are provided.

- notes and other support are provided for staff leading collective worship through Thought for the Day in forms, so that there is a consistent approach throughout the school.
- the school continues to develop our links with the cathedral and to involve other ministers in our worship.
- the effectiveness of collective worship is evaluated and that this evaluation leads to further improvements in our practice.
- students have opportunities in school, for example through the Christian Union, to explore spiritual questions in depth and openly, and to take further issues raised in our assemblies.

**School Leaders** will ensure that:

- an act of Collective Worship, with time for reflection for all students, happens each day in form time and in assemblies.
- in leading acts of worship, they do so in the light of this policy and in keeping with the school's ethos as a Church of England school.

All **staff** are invited to participate in, and make an active contribution to, collective worship, and to encourage students to become actively involved. This will occur through House assemblies and in the Year 12/13 assemblies in the Sixth Form.

The **Governing Body** will:

- ensure the regular review of the school's policy on Collective Worship, and that through it the school is fulfilling its statutory duty.
- ensure that the school evaluates and develops its approach to collective worship for the benefits of all students and staff.
- receive a report from the Co-Headteachers and Chaplain annually on the delivery and effectiveness of CW.

### **Organisation and Content**

Collective worship takes place either in House or 6<sup>th</sup> Form year group assemblies twice a week (other than in examination periods) or in 'Thought for the Day' (TftD) in form tutor groups on the other days. Form tutor groups have various other activities to complete so the Collective Worship aspect usually takes between 5 and 10 minutes.

There is a programme of themes for worship, and materials are provided to support the leaders of CW in developing these themes. Notes are produced in advance each week. The materials include a variety of resources reflecting a range of religions, world views and cultures, but with most coming from the Christian tradition. Where possible themes are delivered through a variety of media.

Speakers from outside school, especially from local religious communities, are regularly invited to assemblies.

There are opportunities for reflection and, where appropriate, for prayer, including the regular use of the school prayer. In smaller groups the reflection may take the form of shared discussion.

Increasingly students are encouraged to provide leadership in CW either by leading 'up front', by contributing to planning or by assisting in the review and evaluation of worship.

### **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

Feedback will be gathered from staff and students about the impact of collective worship and the Senior Leadership Team will evaluate this.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child if they wish. Parents who have concerns about the provision or practice of CW should contact the Co-Headteachers. Parents who wish to withdraw their children are asked to state this in writing to the Co-Headteachers. CW is not part of curriculum time so the co-heads will arrange alternative supervision for the student but this will not involve additional teaching. In line with non-statutory guidance the students in Sixth Form may withdraw themselves from collective worship. They are asked to meet with the Co-Headteacher before making the request in writing.