



Collective worship Policy



***Northumberland
County Council***

Presented to Governors Jan 2018. Ratified Spring Term 2018

Tritlington C of E Aided First School

Ethos

Reflecting the Trust Deed, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school will aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils.

These values include love, caring, sharing, forgiveness, tolerance, perseverance and goodwill to all people.

We aim to ensure everyone reaches their full potential by providing an education that stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit, encourages the will to do good and opens the heart to others

Aims of the School

- ❖ To promote the development of basic skills within a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ❖ To foster the growth and potential of the whole child within a positive Christian ethos where all children irrespective of gender, race, creed, social background and ability can develop to be the best people they can be.
- ❖ To ensure children are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to take their place in the world.

Tritlington C of E Aided First School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

At Tritlington, we define collective worship as worship, which is shared by the whole school or by a smaller grouping. It is not a corporate act of worship, which assumes the sharing of a common belief, but a group of individual responses. It aims to be relevant to the children and Christian in character.

Tritlington School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. As far as is possible the requirements of the original Trust Deeds dating back to 1872 are followed and integrated in the school's Ethos which is based on distinctly Christian principles.

Our school ethos of loving, caring, sharing, tolerance, perseverance, forgiveness and good will to all outlines the importance of recognising the place of God in our world and in our lives.

We seek always to reflect the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work there, in our worship. The children are helped to understand the purpose of Christian Worship, help to prepare it, share in it and appreciate the value of it.

Aims

Our main aims of Collective Worship are:

- ❖ To inspire in the children a belief in, and an awareness of God.
- ❖ To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and experiences
- ❖ To create in all a sense of self worth and belonging
- ❖ To provide children with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- ❖ To help children develop an understanding, respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- ❖ To foster a sense of awe, beauty and wonder and to encourage a sense of thankfulness.
- ❖ To celebrate together the values and worth of this school and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our children.

The Value of Collective Worship in our School is achieved by the following:

- ❖ Creating links with the curriculum through themes related to classroom work.
- ❖ The use of work produced by the pupils
- ❖ Involvement of the pupils through active participation – e.g reading, showing, explaining, recounting experiences, performing musically, acting/role play and dancing.

Organisation

Planning

The Collective Worship plans are drawn up half termly and will reflect a particular value that the school holds dear and how this is underpinned by the teachings of the Christian Faith. The themes used in Collective Worship link closely with Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) materials and are taught across the curriculum.

In addition there is a weekly plan which outlines how aspects of the theme are to be addressed.

Collective worship plans are made available to all staff, governors and representatives of the local parish church so that everyone can reinforce the message being shared.

We recognise the difference between collective worship and “assembly” in that collective worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect. It also contributes greatly to the life and wellbeing of the whole school.

Visitors

We welcome the input of visitors to our collective worship times. The Priest in Charge, Lay Ministers and other members of the local parish church often lead collective worship both in and out of school. We also welcome representatives of specific organisations at appropriate times to take part in our worship, such as The Mustard Tree project, Fair Trade, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Christian Aid. We also endeavour to hold termly “Messy Church” activities.

Delivery

Collective worship takes place every day at Tritlington.

This includes a weekly “sharing” time of worship where parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.

We welcome the involvement of parents and carers in specific “Vision Day” activities and celebrations.

We also as a school attend the local parish church on special occasions such as Harvest, Easter, Christmas and at the end of the summer term.

We endeavour to create a sense of occasion and a special atmosphere during collective worship.

We expect all those working in or visiting the school to respect the time set aside for worship. Outside interruptions should be avoided or minimised as these interrupt concentration and devalue the occasion, reducing it to the mundane.

We show visible signs of our Christian distinctiveness through the cross we have in the hall and our worship table which provides a focus for reflection and stillness.

Collective Worship at Tritlington School takes various forms:

- ❖ We use traditional stories and readings from both sacred and secular texts.
- ❖ We celebrate festivals and special events concerning the school, the community and the nation.
- ❖ We endeavour to link collective worship sessions to specific topical issues locally, nationally and internationally.
- ❖ We explore and develop an understanding of the religious beliefs and practices of other faiths.
- ❖ We use a wide range of music, art, drama, literature and poetry.

Educative value

This is achieved by:

- ❖ Creating links with the curriculum through themes related to classroom work.
- ❖ The use of work produced by the pupils.
- ❖ Involvement of the pupils through active participation e.g. – reading, showing, explaining, recounting experiences, performing musically, acting/role playing, dancing etc.

Our worship is seen as an activity and experience which enables all staff and children to feel included and involved, able to contribute to and gain from whatever their personal commitment or background.

Pupils are not be compelled to respond in a particular way, but are free to respond in a way, which is appropriate to them.

We believe that sensitive school worship can serve the needs of all those taking part and should aim to bring children who are not so aware of the spiritual dimension of life towards it. Pupils are encouraged to focus on their own spiritual feelings and responses.

Withdrawal

We endeavour to ensure that collective worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the School's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Parents and carers do have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within or outside the school and are not obliged to state their reason for this. We do hope that parents/carers would feel able to discuss their reasons with us before making such a decision. We do work hard to ensure that our collective worship is inclusive and non judgemental. We would value the opportunity to better understand what else we can do to ensure our collective worship is accessible to all.

Dissemination of the Policy

This policy will be shared and on our website and available to read as a paper copy outside of the school office.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our acts of collective worship will be monitored and evaluated termly.

The Headteacher: Mrs Hughes

RE Co-ordinator: Mrs O'Dell

and

Collective Worship Governor: Mrs J Robinson

Will support the children to ensure they can actively contribute.