

Collective Worship policy

Tewkesbury C of E Primary School & Pre-School



Approved by:	Governing Body
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“We shine like stars in the sky” (*Philippians 2:15*)

Where the terms ‘organisation’ or ‘school’ are used throughout this policy, they include Tewkesbury C of E School and Tewkesbury C of E Pre-School. They also include the school’s own extended services of Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club.

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1. Vision: “We shine like stars in the sky” (Philippians 2:15)

2. Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in nursery classes. In a Church of England school, collective worship must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England and should be distinctly Christian, reflecting Anglican tradition.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, in line with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework.

3. School Statement on Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life of Tewkesbury Church of England Primary School and Pre-School and is a key way in which our Christian vision is lived out and explored.

Rooted in Philippians 2:15, our vision calls us to “*shine like stars in the sky*”. Through collective worship, pupils and adults are encouraged to reflect on how they can live with hope, compassion and dignity, and how their actions can positively impact others and the wider world.

We recognise that our school community is made up of individuals from a range of faith backgrounds and worldviews. Collective worship is therefore invitational, inclusive and inspirational. It offers opportunities to encounter Christian faith and practice, while respecting the integrity of all those present.

4. Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Tewkesbury Church of England Primary School and Pre-School aims to:

- Have a central place in the daily life of the school
- Enable pupils and adults to flourish spiritually
- Be the main vehicle through which the school’s Christian vision is explored and embedded
- Offer opportunities to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Support pupils in developing understanding of Christian belief, including the Trinity
- Encourage reflection on moral, ethical and spiritual questions
- Foster a sense of community, belonging and shared purpose
- Celebrate achievement, perseverance and growth

Collective worship follows the Church of England guidance of being invitational, inclusive and inspirational.

5. Organisation of Collective Worship

Leadership

Collective worship is led by a range of individuals including the Headteacher, senior leaders, teaching staff, pupils, clergy and visitors from the local church community. Pupils are encouraged to take an active role in planning and leading worship as they grow in confidence and understanding.

The school works closely with local clergy to support worship and ensure that it reflects Anglican tradition and theology.

Planning

Collective worship is carefully planned to:

- Reflect the cycle of the Church year
- Make explicit links between the Bible, Christian values and the school's vision
- Support spiritual development through stillness, reflection and prayer
- Use a range of creative approaches including music, story, imagery and symbolism
- Celebrate key Christian festivals and significant moments in school life

Worship planning draws on diocesan guidance and is adapted to reflect the context and needs of our school community.

Organisation and Structure

- Collective worship takes place daily as whole-school
- A calm, reflective atmosphere is created through the use of music, candles and focal points
- Time for stillness and reflection is included in all acts of worship
- Worship may take place in school or in local churches at key points in the Christian calendar

6. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of collective worship is monitored and evaluated through:

- Pupil voice and discussion
- Staff reflection
- Observation of worship
- Governor monitoring

Feedback is used to strengthen and develop worship so that it continues to meet the spiritual needs of pupils and adults.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Governing Body:** Ensures statutory requirements are met and monitors the impact of collective worship
- **Headteacher:** Provides overall leadership and vision for collective worship
- **Staff:** Support and contribute to worship and model the school's Christian values
- **Pupils:** Participate in and contribute to worship
- **Visitors:** Support worship in line with the school's vision and guidance

8. Staff Development and Training

Staff receive appropriate training and support to develop confidence in planning and leading collective worship. This includes access to diocesan guidance and opportunities for shared reflection and development.

9. Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher, who will make suitable arrangements for supervision. Parents are not required to give reasons for withdrawal.

10. Development and Review of the Policy

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff and governors and reflects diocesan guidance. It is reviewed regularly and shared with staff, governors and parents via the school website.