

Tenbury C of E Primary Academy



Policy for Collective Worship



'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.'
Thessalonians 5:11

Last reviewed by Full Governing Body September 2023

At Tenbury C E Primary Academy our daily worship consists of a gathering of children and staff to explore and respond to deeply held beliefs and values through a range of activities.

Aims

- To be **inclusive** and enable all children to experience worship as a quality activity, central to the life of the school and its religious foundation.
- To be **inspiring** - through Christian Worship, to bring praise, prayer and thanksgiving to God.
- To be **invitational** - providing opportunities for individual response and reflection.
- To celebrate shared beliefs and values.
- To make worship a central focus to Tenbury C E Primary Academy's ethos.
- To create a special time in the day with an atmosphere conducive to worship.

Collective Worship Statement

There is a daily act of worship for all children, either coming together as a class or as an extended school family. Whole school worship takes place on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 3.00pm. On a Wednesday the class teacher chooses a time for class worship to take place, at a time most beneficial for their class. The Early Years Foundation Stage have their own class worship on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, join in with the whole school on a Thursday and hold a joint Worship on Wednesdays with Nursery and Reception.

Parents/Carers are invited to join in with worship at school from time to time, especially to celebrate any festivals, and are always welcomed to our worship in church.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from our Collective Worship. Provisions for this will be made when necessary and staff allocated to look after the children. This is made clear in the school prospectus.

The act of worship is central to the life of the school and our acts of worship are both reverent and relevant.

Content of Collective Worship

The Head teacher, together with the staff, decide on an overall half-termly focus for the worship, based around our school Christian values so that a thematic approach to Collective Worship is developed. The main half termly focus is then broken down into weekly topics, which are planned alongside any festivals or special occasions to be introduced to the children at the relevant times. The Worship display board in the hall reflects the appropriate theme. The children are also encouraged to contribute to an interactive display, based on our Christian values 'Reflection Journal'. The image of the window symbolises 'looking out' at the 'Wows' of life. The mirror symbolises 'looking in', encouraging the children to reflect on their own attitudes and actions and finally, the image of the door symbolises 'looking ahead' and how we can do something practical in the future.

A Worship Crew is established each year, who are a group of pupils who take on responsibility for helping to plan and lead worship, contribute ideas, including choosing hymns and prayers and responding to suggestions made by pupils in the annual worship questionnaire. Our Worship Committee are also responsible for collating ideas in our 'Wonderful Worship' book, available for anyone to read in the Quiet Area near the school office, and for bringing together a School Prayer Book. In addition, they complete a 'Worship Walk' each half term, noting down ideas/activities in each classroom linked to the current Christian value.

There are opportunities for participation in a range of activities within each worship, which enable children to express their spirituality through stories, pictures, videos, artefacts music, dance, drama, questions, prayers, purposeful silence and reflection.

- At the beginning of each half term the chosen overall focus is introduced to the children by Mrs Phelps, our Headteacher. The theme is continued each week by staff leading the Worship on a rota basis. Class teachers often involve their own pupils to help lead the Worship with them, as and when appropriate.
- Monday's Collective Worship is 'Songs of Praise,' led by Ms. Archer, when new hymns and songs are prepared for the following week or for festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc. This allows the children to express their spiritual values through music and rhyme and children contribute by placing their suggestion for a favourite hymn into the hands on the worship table

- Thursday Collective Worship is 'Open The Book' when we welcome local church members who re-tell a Bible story to the whole school. The stories come alive with children dressing up and taking the role of the main characters. Our 'Open The Book' worship is coordinated by Annette Bryant, one of our Foundation Governors.
- The Friday Collective Worship is 'Celebration', led by Mrs. Phelps. Children and staff celebrate their achievements from the week in any field e.g. academic, sport, music, behaviour and there are also presentations of certificates, trophies and prizes. This is also the time when we celebrate our Christian values for the week and award stickers to children who have made a significant contribution to portraying that particular school value in action. Stickers are also added to the class display for that Christian value each half term. There is also time for prayer and praise, discussion and reflection over our school week.
- We have many links with our local parish church of St Mary's and our incumbent, Reverend Lawrence Gittens, leads worship at least once a month. He also leads our services in church and is currently considering other ways to further strengthen the relationship between school and church.
- There are at least four acts of collective worship each year held in St Mary's Church, where parents, friends, clergy and community meet together to celebrate Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Year 6 Leavers. Year 6 pupils also attend the Diocesan Leavers' Service in Hereford Cathedral each summer.

At Tenbury C E Primary Academy, Worship is prepared carefully with the use of singing, music, prayer, poetry, reflection, meditation, readings, ceremony and the use of symbols and artefacts - children and adults present are able to participate as they may choose.

Approaches

At Tenbury C E Primary Academy a variety of approaches are used by the Head Teacher, members of staff, Clergy and children. Children are encouraged individually, in groups or as a whole class to contribute to the planning, leading and participating in our daily worship.

There are opportunities for the children to share and "show" work and celebrate achievements emanating from our school life.

Collective Worship may include prayer and praise. Those present are encouraged

to contribute both individual and published prayers and thoughts and join together in songs, hymns, drama and music. Stories and poems are selected carefully to enhance the theme chosen for the week.

Collective Worship is a "special time" where there is an opportunity for reflection and the lighting of candles.

The order of the daily worship may vary slightly, and is generally determined by the person who is leading it, who is guided by the theme for the week. This may include a hymn or song, prayer/reflection, story or poem, drama and appropriate music.

There is a Focus Table for Worship which is always prepared together at the start of worship. Members of the Worship Committee give out key items of worship to individual children who are then invited to come and place them on the table. Whilst doing so, there is a quick reminder to the whole school about what each artifact symbolises.

- 1) The worship colour to match the liturgical colour of the church year is put onto the table - red, white, green or purple fabric.
- 2) The Bible - understood by Christians to be the word of God.
- 3) The Cross - symbolising the person of Jesus. Jesus is at the heart of our school community, Jesus is God's son.
- 4) A candle - candle is lit to remind us that God is always with us. Sometimes, a three-wicked candle is used to remind the children of the Trinity.

Staff use a similar format for class worship, ensuring they have the correct liturgical colour laid out and also ensuring a sign is put on the outside of the door, informing others that class worship is in progress, so they are not disturbed. Worship Crew members are encouraged to take part before worship, ie. setting up, during the worship and after the worship, sometimes recording and evaluating the session.

Prayers used in worship include Responses, The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. There are also sung prayers e.g. Shalom. The new version of the Lord's Prayer is used and is said at least every Thursday and at all church services.

Further opportunities for reflection and prayer are provided in school within the themed quiet area just inside Reception. This is a place of where children can learn more about themselves and understand more about God. They are able

to choose how to spend their time in this peaceful environment perhaps by reading, doing or just sitting quietly. There is always an activity there linked to our Christian value for that half term.

Each classroom also has an area for reflection and prayer, with a 'Prayer Tree' where children and staff can put their ideas/thoughts linked to the Christian value each half term.

Planning and Resources

The main planning resource for our worship is currently 'Roots and Fruits' by Imaginor. In addition, Early Years use the 'Jack in the Box' resource for interactive Christian worship and KS1 'Oscar Out of the Box' for 5-7 year olds, to support the teaching of Christian values to all ages. Staff are also mindful to use a wide variety of resources including books, videos, IWB, artefacts and the internet, according to the theme for the week. Resources are stored mainly in a central location for easy access, although some may be in classrooms for curriculum requirements. We also access videos for worship made by Mark Harrington, from the Diocesan Education Team.

The Head Teacher, RE Coordinator and Foundation Governor attend CPD for Religious Education and Worship as and when appropriate. Through discussion with Diocesan Advisors, Staff and Clergy, the RE Coordinator orders appropriate resources and evaluates Collective Worship alongside the views of the pupils.

The RE Coordinator role at Tenbury Primary Academy is currently shared by Mrs Hickman and Mrs Bannister.

School Choir

Our school choir meet every Friday after school and are led by Mr Bryant, a member of the local clergy. It is a time for joyful praise and lots of fun! Any children from Y3 and above are welcome to attend, regardless of singing ability! The choir then go on to perform at several community events throughout the year, such as the local 'Applefest Festival', a Christmas Concert, carol singing in local residential homes and performing in the church tent at the Three Counties Show in Malvern.

Special Needs

Children with special needs take a full and active part in our Collective Worship

and participate fully in all the activities. Children are enabled to express their spirituality through story and music etc bringing them to the threshold of worship evoking such responses as awe and wonder. Some of our SEND children have particularly thrived taking part in the school choir.

Evaluation

Brief records of *Collective Worship*, outlining the values / themes covered are kept, sometimes alongside any suggested resources or specific plans.

Our school *Worship Crew* conduct an annual questionnaire on collective worship for all of our pupils, they collect formal feedback each half term from our 'Collective Worship Feedback Records' and also collect more informal feedback through pupil/staff interviews and comments on post-it notes.

Many *Acts of Worship* incorporate a significant element of questioning and partner discussions for the children, sometimes to recap on previous acts of worship or to reflect on the present theme and to ascertain the level of understanding and depth of meaning explored. This is always differentiated for the wide range of ages and abilities of the children and provides a valuable source of immediate feedback and evaluation.

The content of *Collective Worship* is reviewed each term and resources evaluated. Requests by staff for specific resources are encouraged.

Governors also evaluate responses to collective worship, RE and our school Christian ethos through their annual questionnaire to parents in the Spring Term each year.

Religious Education is also evaluated regularly and obviously the curriculum links closely with our *Collective Worship Programme*. There is a detailed Religious Education Policy and Scheme of Work.

Review date: September 2025