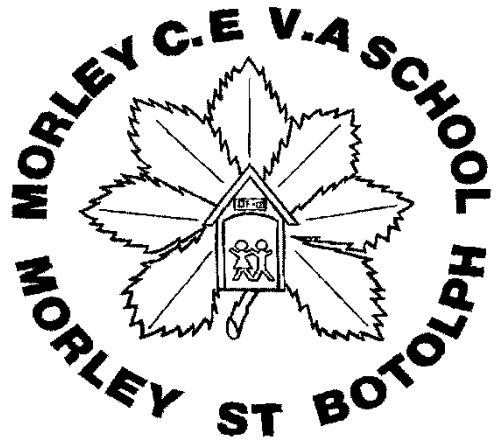


Tacolneston & Morley CE VA Primary Schools Federation



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace
1 Peter 4:10

Work together, learn together, grow together...

Collective Worship Policy

All policies at Tacolneston & Morley CE VA Primary Schools Federation should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and implemented within the context of our Safeguarding Policy and our vision, aims and values as Church of England Schools.

Agreed: Autumn 2020

Head Teacher:

Governor:

Review: Autumn 2023

Policy Statement

As a Church School, worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where adults and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is therefore the 'heartbeat' of everything that we do and an expression of our school's Christian vision and values.

We believe that we are all made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful. It should enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Legal Requirements

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day, take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship is inclusive, inspirational and invitational.

Aims and Purpose

Collective Worship in our school aims to give the whole school the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Share each other's joys and challenges

Anglican Faith and Practice

In order to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England:

We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

We use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

As worship is a special part of our day, we provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We actively seek to develop church partnerships to enhance our provision for collective worship. This includes the local Anglican church and other Christian denominations. We view our schools as part of the global church and aim to provide opportunities for pupils to appreciate the diversity of Christianity.

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the head teacher, with support from the collective worship co-ordinator, clergy and the children. It follows the cycle of the Anglican year. The planning reflects our vision and values, and is enhanced through resources such as Roots and Shoots, and Values for Life. The head teacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship. This approach is inclusive of pupils, who have regular involvement in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship.

Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This is usually whole school, but on occasions can be class or key stage groups. Where collective worship forms part of an assembly, we ensure that there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering.

The head teacher and members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. Also local church ministers, both lay and ordained may take regular collective

Worship. Collective worship is regularly delivered by clergy and visitors from other Christian denominations. Children lead collective worship in small groups, whole class, key stage and through the ethos groups. This worship is delivered both in school and in our local church.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way, expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

Collective worship in the federation includes:

Worship based on the values and the Christian Calendar

The schools within the federation are Values Schools and this determines the thinking and behaviour in school, of all pupils and staff. Through a Values-based Education, a positive culture for teaching and learning is created which is based upon valuing each other, the environment and ourselves. Our School Values support the development of the whole child.

The ethos of our school is built on core Values that are addressed directly through lessons, collective worship and across the whole curriculum. Each term we focus on a particular Value where we learn to understand what the Value is and how this was demonstrated through Jesus’ teachings and in the stories in The Bible. We explore how we can demonstrate the Value through the way we behave, our attitude towards each other and our learning.

Our Values for Life programme.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2019-20	Trust	Perseverance	Truthfulness
2020-21	Creativity	Respect	Hope
2021-22	Friendship	Forgiveness	Peace
2022-23	Generosity	Justice & Equality	Love & Compassion
2023-24	Courage	Responsibility & Rights	Humility
2024-25	Thankfulness	Wisdom	Service

Singing or praise worship

- Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:1-2
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Singing or praise worship is once a week. Children participate in a wide variety of praise, songs, hymns, psalms and dance. We recognise that people chose to worship and praise in different ways and our aim is to provide children and adults with an opportunity to worship in a way that is attractive and appropriate to them.

Celebration worship

- Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud crashing cymbals!... Psalms 150:1
- As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace 1 Peter 4:10

Celebration Worship praises God and gives thanks for our gifts. We reflect on how much the school community values the achievements of its members and our belief that our gifts and talents are God-given and precious in the sight of God. We nurture and use our gifts in the service of others as good stewards of God. We celebrate and give thanks to God for these gifts and share how each of us has served our community as a good steward of God.

Resources

The budget for Collective Worship is distinct from the budget for Religious Education. There is a wide selection of assembly books and artefacts which we regularly update and improve. We have a collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing. Leaders of worship, including clergy and governors, have access to regular training.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor and evaluate the impact of our Collective Worship by maintaining records of the activity and surveying adults and children as to their views on its impact and expression of the school's Christian vision. We make the criteria for successful worship available to all those who plan and lead it before asking them to submit short term plans. The coordinator and others will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship in line with these criteria. In conjunction with Foundation Governors, pupils will also evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on themselves and the wider school community.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi-sensory approaches.

Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed by the Governing Body every three years. Its' implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Links to Other Policies:

- Religious Education Policy
- PSHE Policy
- school vision statement

Collective Worship During Covid Restrictions

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school day, where the community can come 'together' in some format and be one, as well as come together in its smaller communities, like class and phase. In our current climate, government advice is that:

- Groups should be kept apart, meaning that schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group.
- Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as choirs and ensembles, or assemblies unless significant space, natural airflow, strict social distancing and mitigation can be maintained.

Collective Worship can play a crucial role in our recovery as we move towards a place in which everyone is able to thrive once again.

It can:

- Bring the vision and values of the school to the forefront of the whole community
- Provide a platform for innovation
- Develop leadership opportunities for pupils in their 'bubbles'
- Re-establish routines for pupils after lockdown
- enable us, in a sensitive and age appropriate way to handle some of the issues arising from lockdown, inspired by the message of hope within Christianity and the teaching of Jesus
- provide opportunities for quiet, reflection and personal prayer.

Collective Worship has become very innovative during this period and worship can include not just class bubbles but also a series of recorded worships from clergy and SLT, bubbles filming and recording worship and outside worship with approved visitors.

The Liturgical pattern of worship

With any Collective Worship, it is important that it follows the liturgical pattern of gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Example of a Class or small group Liturgy for Collective Worship

Gathering	Welcome: Light the candle(s) and say the opening prayer – ‘We are gathered in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to worship together and think about our value...’
Engaging	Planned resource or theme
Responding	Discuss: the pupils response to and thoughts about the theme of worship
	Reflection: Have a short time of silence for guided reflection on the theme.
	Prayers: Say the Lord’s Prayer and /or the School prayer and the value prayer or prayer for that week
	Sing: If outside or in small enough numbers, sing a worship song or play a worship song
Sending	Extinguish the candle: May the light of God shine from us, and the peace of God be with us always. Amen
	Say the Grace together: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen