

St Thomas' (Halliwell) CE School



ST. THOMAS
C.E. PRIMARY, HALLIWELL

Worship Policy

September 2024
To be reviewed December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gower', is written over the Bolton Council logo.

Bolton
Council



At St Thomas' CE Primary school, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our school vision statement.

'Our community united in love and learning where all can shine'

or to simplify...

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Our school purpose is **to bring out the best in everyone by guiding and inspiring them in God's love.**

This vision permeates everything we do at St Thomas' and is reflected in our schools' ['Positive Behaviour for learning' policy](#).

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Our school identifies with these important Christian values; Love, respect, humility, hope, forgiveness, friendship, happiness, wisdom, honesty, freedom, trust and courage.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children.

| Week and Theme | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Theme or value | Alternate weeks of: Ethos team worship. Theme based on the liturgical calendar/ current events or theme chosen by the team. Hymn Practice/ Songs or worship and praise | Daily acts of class worship Using the Classroom Worship resource | Church Worship Led by Church leaders (West Bolton team) 9-10am | Daily acts of class worship Using the Classroom Worship resource | AM - Celebration assembly/class assembly/visitors Lead by HT or DHT |

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. Parents are also invited to attend Wednesday church worship and other festival worships and celebrations.

The worship / assembly should last approximately 20 minutes – 30 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for the half term are linked to the school value, the church calendar and current events. The school ethos team, alongside the team clergy and senior leadership team have input into the worship planning meetings.

Worship is also often planned and delivered by the Ethos team, supported by the 'Children's Changing Places project'

Worship typically begins with a piece of music. Worship continues with the theme or message for that week. Hymns or 'i-sing POP' songs are sung usually chosen to link to the church calendar or theme.

Children write the prayers and also deliver the Bible readings for the Wednesday church worship. Other prayers said at worship include; prayers for the world, the school prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Children lead out to either music or a song.

Music praise involves learning new hymns and practising familiar ones that usually fall in line with the Church calendar, prayers are said at the end of the worship.

Class worship is led by the class teacher and is based around reflections from the week and current events. Children are encouraged to bring forward their own prayers. The school also use the 'picture news' resource to observe and reflect on local, national or global events and the 'Classroom worship' resource from I-sing POP.

Celebration assembly celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. A child from each class receives the 'Gold jumper' award which recognises how children have 'let their light shine'. One child from each class is also chosen to attend the 'Mad Hatters' tea party' which acknowledges improvements in presentation and handwriting. Other certificates and trophies are also awarded and celebrated. The assembly finishes with a prayer and a song.

EYFS

Children in the EYFS follow the Manchester Diocesan approved and designed 'Wiggle Worship' resource which introduces them to simple acts of worship, the idea of prayer and the concept of 'God'.

Prayer and Reflection.

Each class manages its own reflection time and has its own reflection area. A variety of prayers are used in school including the whole school prayer which was written by the children; the lunchtime prayer which is said at the start of the lunch hour, and the home time prayer which is said at the end of the day.

The school has a prayer tree in the church which the children are encouraged to add to. Children's prayers are also added to their class reflection areas.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements. Visitors from other faiths are regularly invited in to assemblies to share their beliefs.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Thomas' ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. St

Thomas's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

The school has close links with the Bolton 'HAFWAY' team, and the 'Children changing places project' who enhance and support our worship significantly.

The West Bolton team also provide additional acts of worship for the community through 'Messy Church'

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Children may be withdrawn from worship at the wish of their parents. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

NB – RE and Worship coordinator

September 2023

Review date: September 2024