



**In God's Family, learning, loving,  
growing to be our very best.**

# **Collective Act of Worship Policy**



**Reviewed: July 26**

## **Introduction**

Tanworth in Arden Church of England Primary School aims to promote the spiritual and moral development of children and lay the foundation of a mature faith.

Our worship is in accordance with the beliefs of the Church of England. Worship is daily and reflects our Christian foundation. However, it is inclusive and invitational, allowing children to join in with the parts they feel comfortable with. We plan worship to give children an experience that is inspiring and which brings together children from different traditions.

Every day we have a daily act of Christian worship. We also hold some assemblies throughout the year to learn about major festivals of other faiths. It is a way of developing an understanding of and valuing members of other faiths in the school community and beyond. The inclusion of such experiences does not mean that the worship itself becomes that of another faith.

## **Worship and Education**

The 1988 Education Reform Act pointed to the importance of the spiritual aspect in children's development. Worship is central to the spiritual experience and it is a valid task of the school to educate children about worship. Education in worship should be exploratory as well as affirming the beliefs the children hold and helping them understand the Christian faith.

## **Worship at Tanworth-in-Arden Primary School**

In accordance with our foundation, we support and encourage the teaching and practice of the Christian Faith. Children are given the opportunity to experience a wide variety of Christian worship.

Collective worship is seen as a rich opportunity to provide for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Worship across the school year should:

- Have a sense of occasion;
- Be inclusive for all;
- Be invitational to allow children to join in with what they feel comfortable with;
- Be inspirational and challenge pupils;
- Be concerned with the worship of God;
- Provide opportunities for praise and thanksgiving

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to explore their inner feelings and their spirituality;
- Provide opportunities for individuals and the community to share what is of importance to them/it;
- Promote courageous advocacy;
- Celebrate beliefs, values and ideals;
- Provide opportunities for children to engage with the bible and understand the context of the stories;
- Respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God;
- Promote Christian moral values;
- Promote the moral codes of the school and explore the rationale for them;
- Reflect on models of moral virtue in literature and the lives of contemporary people and those of the past;
- Foster a sense of community and belonging;
- Be varied in style and include different forms of expression eg art, music, story, dance, etc;
- Celebrate pupils' gifts and talents;

The whole school attends a service in church every week. We believe it is important to build close relationships between the school and the Parish Church. To do this we encourage the full involvement of the clergy (when in post) and people of the parish in our worship and make children aware of the worshipping life of the Church.



Termly services are held in church for the whole school and parents. These take the theme of Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers Service. A different class leads these services on each occasion. At regular intervals, we will also hold our Values Service in church, giving opportunities for Christian values to be celebrated. Often the Church provides refreshments for parents and carers after the school church service.

We also wish to encourage the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion. This may be expressed through visitors who are invited to lead or attend school worship.

In planning daily worship, we take account of the particular needs of the children in the school, their ages and development, and the views of the Prayer and Worship Leaders, who represent each class. The Prayer and Worship Leaders also observe worship and feedback their comments to the Collective Worship leader. We also ensure that worship is given a high priority and is planned to take account of the Church's year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

We use the Christian Values from Imaginor (Roots and Fruits) to shape our collective acts of worship, following a theme each half term. This flows through our worship led by the headteacher and Vicar and our Open the Book worship. We also, where possible, link our worship to Understanding Christianity and enable children to understand the place of Bible stories within the wider chronology and 'Bible Timeline' of the Christian Faith.



A worship table, on which there is a lectern, a cross and a prayer candle are used to focus the children for worship in the school hall. The children are encouraged to sit quietly as they enter worship and listen to music or say their own prayers.

The format for Collective Worship follows a similar routine, with everyone greeting each other and saying the Lord's Prayer or the School Prayer together. Depending on the theme, there is a religious song, story and prayer.

Prayer boxes are in use in classrooms for children to enter their prayers, with the Prayer and Worship Leaders working with the Collective Worship leader to collate the prayers from each class and lead them in forthcoming worship. Every act of worship in the hall and in the church ends with a blessing on the theme of the Trinity.



Collective worship is an experience for everyone. This means that it will take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils, extend the learning opportunities offered to pupils and reflect what goes on across the curriculum – not just Religious Education lessons. Children are encouraged to take part by discussing issues with the person sitting beside them and participating in the question-and-answer sessions and helping to take part and

lead Open the Book. We also invite children to share what they have learnt and how they have been changed by the worship, which is recorded in our reflection book.

In Reception and Nursery, children follow the 'Jack in Box' resource which involves a puppet and enables children to engage in collective worship at an appropriate level. KS1 also have a half-termly visit from 'Oscar the Owl' who shares his view on a Christian story, linked to the value of the half term.



The vicar (when in post) periodically visits the Junior classes to lead a debate and answer questions about theological issues arising from collective worship and respond to questions that children have placed in the questions box.

## Spirituality within Collective Act of Worship

At Tanworth we see Spirituality as an integral part of the day-to-day life of the school, when we seek the answer to three key questions:

- Who am I?
- Where do I fit in?
- Why am I here?



Children and adults are also encouraged to stop to reflect on the cracks in life as we worship together. Noticing the Ows, Wows and Nows in ourselves, our school community and wider help us to grow spiritually.

Class worship takes place each half term, where children focus on 'Spirituality' and have the opportunity to explore and record their reflections in their spirituality journal. This is often done using the Window, Mirror, Door, Skylight tool.



Collective worship may also influence the future spiritual lives of those in the school community with the following possibilities:

- Opportunity to find spiritual jigsaw pieces which may contribute to a map on the individual's journey
- Faith in things unseen
- Awareness of God/holiness/mystery
- Opportunity to thank God/seek forgiveness
- Opportunity to communicate with God
- A sense of eternity/God's bigger picture

For more information about Spirituality in the school, please see our Spirituality Policy.

## Visitors

Where children's understanding and enrichment can be enhanced, visitors may be invited to take part in all or part of worship. E.g. when a member of the Christian faith or charity shares their beliefs and experiences.



## The weekly pattern of Worship

Day		Place	Leader
Monday (am)	Whole School	Hall	Head Teacher or OPAL Lead (Values Based or linked to topic of local, national or international significance)
Tuesday (am)	Whole School	Hall	Celebration of Children's Achievements  (with parents)
Wednesday (am)	Whole School	Classrooms	In Class Worship – Focussed on the Current School Christian Value, religious festival, Picture News, Oscar the Owl, Window, Mirror, Door reflections or Spirituality.
Thursday (pm)	Whole School	Hall or Classrooms	Open the Book (School Team) or Musical Worship  Or – Family Time – led by Year 6 children
Friday (am)	Whole School	Church	Vicar or Church Representative/  Open the Book (Classes leading)/ Christian Value Celebration/ Half termly, Junior Uplifted Puppets