

Tanworth-in-Arden Church of England
Primary School and Nursery



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

POLICY: Collective Worship

APPROVED: March 2023

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: March 2025

Signed
Chair of Governing Body

Date:

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.

Collective worship can include material from faiths other than Christianity. We learn about major festivals of other faiths as this is part of the general religious and cultural education of pupils. It is also a way of developing an understanding of and valuing members of other faiths in the school community. 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;
- 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. The Church employs a Children and Young Families coordinator who helps to organise Friday Church Services and runs a Bibles Arts Club on a weekly basis. The coordinator and another church leader run a monthly "Little Ones Service" in the nursery every month. Also, every month in term time, there is Messy Church in the school hall.

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 celebration assemblies 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 a range of 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 assemblies 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 assemblies led by the headteacher and our Open The Book assemblies. We also, where possible, link our assemblies 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 assembly and listen to music or say their own prayers.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of Christian worship if they wish and should see the Headteacher to discuss this.

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 assemblies. Every assembly in the hall and in the church ends with a blessing on the theme of the Trinity, which is led by some of the children.

Collective worship is an educational 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.

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

Spirituality

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?

Two class assemblies each half term take place, where children focus on specific areas of 'Spirituality' and record their reflections in their spirituality journal.

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

Visitors

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

The weekly pattern of Worship

Day		Place	Leader
Monday (am)	Whole School	Hall	Head Teacher Assembly
Tuesday (am)	Whole School	Hall	Celebration Assembly (with parents)
Wednesday (am)	Whole School	Hall	Open the Book (School Team) or Singing Assembly
Thursday (pm)	Whole School	Classrooms	Class Assembly – Focussed on the Current School Christian Value, religious festivals and PSHE JIGSAW topics, Oscar the Owl, Window, Mirror, Door reflections or Spirituality. Or – Family Time – led by Year 6 children
Friday (am)	Whole School	Church/Hall	Vicar or Church Representative/ Open the Book (Classes leading)/ Christian Value Assembly

Additional Times of Worship

There are whole school services in Church on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. There are also occasional joint school/Parish services.