

Trinity School

Collective Worship



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Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you
James 4:8

Collective Worship

Introduction

Philosophy

Trinity is a Christian faith designated school. Worship is therefore a central part of school life as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect, worship and thank God for all that he has done in Christ. It is also a time when the school is encouraged through the hearing of God's word. It is attended by all students and staff and all visitors in school are encouraged to join in worship.

At Trinity we recognise that Collective Worship provides significant opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Trinity that worship:-

- encourages a real encounter with the living God
- is centered on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour
- contributes to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- supports the social and emotional aspects of pupils' learning (SEAL)
- promotes community cohesion
- gives expression to, and reaffirms and practises the values of the school community
- allows reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrates and gives thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- fosters and enables a concern for the needs of others, and a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provides members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- provides members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provides members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and to Biblical material
- helps students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provides a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Consultation:

Staff

Were consulted via email and comments taken into account in the formulation of the policy.

Pupils

Pupils were consulted with during the formulation of this policy via the school council.

Parents

Were consulted via email and comments taken into account in the formulation of the policy.

Governors

All governors were provided with draft copies of the document for review and comment.



Principles/values:

This policy is based on our commitment to our values particularly:

Christian: everything in the school will be based on our Christian values - not just assemblies and RE but also teaching and learning, pastoral care and how we treat each other on the sports field and in the classroom.

High achieving: we will expect the best from all in our school community and help them to flourish through a rigorous but personalised approach which affirms everyone's individual gifts and talents.

Nurturing: the small-size of our school, coupled with our tutor system and chaplaincy provision, will allow us to know each pupil well. We want to ensure that the whole young person – academic, spiritual, social, creative and physical – is developing well and being cared for.

Serving: we will encourage all involved in our school - students, families, teaching and non-teaching staff - to serve others within the school, in the local community and beyond.

Procedures and practice

Legal Status of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Documents and reflect the Christian status of the school.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in form time. Worship is held at the beginning of the day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Chaplain and Headteacher.

Inclusion

The school recognises and values the diversity of experience and belief of the Trinity Community. Worship is, by its very nature, an inclusive activity that reflects the essential spirituality of human beings.

However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.



Typically, each term we look at a theme from the Bible and aim, where possible, to relate it to our TELLS ethos. This then feeds into form worship, lesson prayers, prayer meetings and parent newsletters. The themes are broad enough that they can be looked at from many different viewpoints - the one presented in collective worship is distinctly Christian, whereas form discussions in form worship give the students the chance to put their personal viewpoints across under a Christian theme.

The planning of worship over the year also includes an official Remembrance Day Service; Easter and Christmas Service as well as an end year Celebration Service. These services involve our Sevenoaks Churches Education Trust (SCET) partnerships; music department and have liturgies that are different to weekly worship and are created by the Chaplain.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Worship (both collective and form) is evaluated by the Chaplain using verbal feedback from students, student council and form tutors. This feedback is used to inform the structuring of the resources produced and is discussed with the Headteacher.

The school seeks to involve students in collective worship. The Chaplaincy and 6th Form department work closely together so that structures, processes and training is in place for the 6th Formers to be involved in reading the weekly prayers and Bible readings within Worship. Students are also encouraged to participate through being involved in Trinity's Worship band. Several students are working with the Chaplain to deliver collective worship and learn the process of delivering it.

One of the school's foundation governors has a role in monitoring collective worship at the school.