



Collective Worship Policy

Our Mission Statement

Holy Trinity and S. Silas School was founded by the Church in 1847 to serve the community and to provide an education for every child in the area.

We offer all our children an education of the highest quality taught through the arts and lived through the principles and practice of the Christian faith. We provide a place where all children and adults know their contribution is valued and where they can develop their own faith in God and in one another.

We aim to help every child develop to their full potential, to achieve highly, succeed, and grow in confidence and abilities. Our inspiring curriculum provides all the skills every child will need for life, it develops their self-confidence, awakens their imagination and encourages them to think independently.

We value the diversity of backgrounds and cultures which enrich our life and help our school become the unique place it is. The life of our school is integral to that of the Parish: we both contribute to our local community and benefit from it in our achievements.

It is with this unity that we fulfil our school motto: 'Fortis in Fide'



'Strong in the Faith'

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1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We see collective worship as an opportunity for children to grow in their own spirituality and to experience awe, wonder and discovery. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, including members of the school community. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school as part of assembly. There are whole-school assemblies on Monday and Friday. There are infant and junior assemblies on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday each class has its own class assembly. Holy Trinity Church provides a venue for significant events in the life of the school and all children visit at least once per term, with juniors attending more regular Masses. All Reception children are introduced to the Church as part of their induction to the school and start attending collective worship as soon as they have settled into school. Additionally, S. Silas Church is visited by all children throughout the year and both Churches are considered special places which children learn about through our RE lessons.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by beginning with a period of silence which children understand to be a time for calm and reflection. Staff use music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. We support children to develop a language of faith through their participation in collective worship.

3.3 The head teacher and Father Graeme, the parish priest, normally conduct the whole school assembly on Monday. The assembly on Friday is led by a class or the Head teacher. The key stage assemblies are led by members of staff or the Head teacher. Class assemblies are led by the class teachers.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies following the school's collective worship scheme of work, based on that of the LDBS and developed with Fathers Graeme and Desmond to make links to our school and its Churches. We also refer to the Christian Values in every assembly, making links with PHSE and real life experiences.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Holy Trinity & Saint Silas School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time. Each Governor is linked to a particular class and they are invited to attend when their class is performing at assembly.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Resources

5.1 Resources to support collective worship include:

- Collective worship scheme of work with recommended resources
- Collective worship folders containing the scheme of work and resources

- Songs on CDs and shared drive
- Prayers in resources, class prayer books, the Lord's Prayer
- Visits to the Holy Trinity & S. Silas Churches
- Mass
- Speaking to Father Graeme for advice and support in class for any specific areas
- Staff Inset

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 It is the role of a named school Governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed:

Date:

Updated by Louise Bergin October 2017

Approved by governors on: November 2015/September 2016