

Statement for Collective Worship



Our children are at the heart of everything we do through **Christian values and relationships**.

Living and learning together, we celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of everyone in our family.

We nurture a sense of **self-belief, mutual respect and belonging** through social, emotional learning and academic excellence.

We are dedicated to building the foundations for **happy and successful life-long learning**.



Faith



Friendship



Love



Trust

Introduction

At St Thomas, collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values. Our school bible stories link to our school vision and underpin all our learning. Each bible story has a school value that allows our children to live out our vision daily.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Legal Requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage each day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship or class worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the ethos leader in the first instance and thereafter to the Headteacher. Following a conversation with the Headteacher parents should confirm this request in writing.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

We welcome families of all faiths and none. Although our Christian ethos is an important part of who we are, we also recognise and celebrate our diverse local community and recognise. We want to take lots of opportunities to learn from each other and about each other. This may take the form of sharing prayers and special celebrations from non-Christian faith, learning about each other's families, cultural heritage and traditions. As we are a church school, our Religious Education curriculum reflects this through learning about Christianity in every year group, but we also believe it is important to learn about non-Christian world faiths and beliefs, so these are also taught in year groups every year.

Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Mondays: Whole school worship using Roots and Fruits (led by SLT)

Tuesdays: Whole school singing worship (led by music lead)

Wednesdays: Whole school Bible story (St Luke's Church led)

Thursdays: Class worship using Picture First News (led by class teacher)

Fridays: Whole school worship focusing on British values (led by SLT)

Planning Collective Worship

Our worship themes follow the liturgical calendar and are planned by rooting all learning in the Bible and the Church, Roots and Fruits is designed to support SIAMS requirements and meets the criteria set out in the Evaluation Schedule. Each assembly follows the pattern established in earlier Imaginor publications and includes the four elements of Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding – which match the Windows, Mirrors, Doors strategy that has proved so popular with teachers.

The worship is enriched using:

- Quotes and questions to encourage deeper thinking about each value
- Photographs and posters to root the teaching in the everyday experience of children
- Stories, poems and art, much of which has been especially commissioned for this book
- Prayers and guided reflections from traditional and contemporary authors
- Fruits from the Roots – ideas to develop the theme of the worship through the week

Staff and Community Involvement in Worship

Members of St Luke's church are involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship. We regularly invite visitors to participate in and lead our worship. We liaise with them beforehand so that they are clear about the aims of our collective worship and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade participants to adopt particular religious or non-religious beliefs are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Pupil Involvement in Worship

Pupils play an active part in planning and leading worship on a regular basis through our faith team. Our Faith team are a group of volunteer children from Year 6. The purpose of the Faith Group is to represent their peers on issues connected to Collective Worship, Church Services, Prayer and the Religious Education Curriculum. As well as being Leaders in Worship and Prayer. Our Faith Group benefits the whole school as it gives opportunities for the members to communicate their feelings and opinions and enables the children to take a lead in their community.

Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Collective worship is coordinated by the Head and deputy headteacher. They are responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship, supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading worship, monitoring the quality of worship and evaluating its impact across the school community.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by faith team and school leaders. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice.

Formal monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by the headteacher and deputy headteacher on a termly basis. It is the specific responsibility of the foundation governors, and this evaluation is reported to the whole governing body.

The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

God's Love in Action

Fioretti Trust

