



Tonwell St Mary's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Psalm 95 v6 'Come, let us bow down in **worship**, let us kneel
before the Lord our Maker'

Date Ratified: October 2016
Date for Review: October 2020

Aims

The aim of Collective Worship at Tonwell St Mary's CE School is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

Collective worship plays a vital role in the life of Tonwell St Mary's School giving everyone in the school community a chance to gather, stop and reflect. Prayer and worship underpins the school's distinctive Christian character supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our aim is that all pupils will have a positive experience of belonging to a Christian community at Tonwell St Mary's School and have opportunities to reflect upon their own beliefs and values. It is something we do together but embraces a variety of faith commitment.

We believe Collective Worship should:

- Be daily for all children
- Underpin the values and ethos of Tonwell St Mary's School
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christian prayer and Anglican traditions
- Provide opportunities for children to respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Be led by the children on occasion and engage everyone
- Share times of joy and times of sadness with each other
- Be suitable for all abilities
- Be age appropriate
- Be appropriate to the background of the children
- Involve the community, but still be controlled by the school
- Allow time for reflection
- Be monitored and evaluated by staff and governors

The Style of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.

Worship can involve prayer, song, dance, poetry, an act of compassion to another person or reading/learning the Word of God.

The style of acts of worship will vary according to the age of the children and theme. Over a period of time we expect to provide opportunities for:

- stillness and a time to reflect
- use of candle, cross or other object to act as a focal point
- use of words, stories, pictures and symbols as stimuli
- prayer (own silent, led by adult, led by child, well known prayers including the Lord's prayer)
- hymns, songs and music (listening and participation)
- drama
- questions and answers – and sometimes the admission that there are no answers
- expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy.
- feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate
- visitors from other denominations and charities
- learning God's word

The Content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is Christian in nature. Other religions are treated with respect but do not provide the basis for worship.
- Collective Worship takes place each day and is led by staff, pupils and volunteers from the church community on a rota basis.
- Collective Worship involves the whole school meeting together. Occasionally individual classes hold their own acts of worship. Children are encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways, and lead the prayers on occasion.
- Themes for worship time are chosen to reflect the schools values curriculum which addresses a different Christian value each half term, e.g. love, respect, forgiveness (on a rotational cycle). The SEAL scheme of work is also used to supplement the content of worship times together with the Diocesan Collective Worship Planner, which highlights the major Christian festivals.
- Where appropriate, Collective Worship links with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware and offer appropriate worship in response. There is always room for spontaneity.
- Most acts of Collective Worship are held on school premises in the school hall or classrooms. Very occasionally worship is held in other places, for example the school playground or Holy Trinity Church.
- At the end of term, a collective worship time is held at Holy Trinity Church where parents are invited to join in. The major services are normally:

September/October	Harvest Festival
December	Christmas service
March/April	Holy Week and Easter service
July	End of leavers' service

End of term services involve the children in active participation (drama, readings, singing, leading prayer). The local minister or representative regularly lead worship times at school as well as at the church. As a school we also encourage links to participate in extra-curricular themed activities run and led by the clergy and members of Tonwell St Mary's Church.

- From time to time ministers from other Christian denominations, other faiths or visitors representing charities, organisations or projects may be invited to lead or contribute to Collective Worship.
- We regard Collective Worship as non-curriculum time, but also recognise the opportunities that arise for links to be made with some areas of the curriculum, particularly PSHE and RE. The school regularly participates in Ant-Bullying Week and Safer Internet Day. We also regard opportunities for speaking and listening in assembly as important for all pupils.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Collective Worship

Worship at Tonwell St Mary's is regularly monitored and relevant feedback is given to the school council team. The governors also review the provision of collective worship.

Right of Withdrawal

At Tonwell St Mary's all children attend collective worship. However, we recognise the right of any parent to do so under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In these circumstances the Headteacher would discuss the matter with parents and, if necessary, would make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the periods concerned. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship (1944 Education Act).