



# HUNDON AND THURLOW PRIMARY FEDERATION

*Laying the foundations for a bright future*

The Parable of The Wise and The Foolish Man  
(Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 24 to 27 and the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 6, verses 46 to 49)

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*NB: This policy has been discussed and considered for equality giving consideration to the protected characteristics- gender, age, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity and any other recognised area of discrimination.*

**Reviewed: Summer 2023**

**Date of next review: Summer 2024**

**Approved by Governing Body**

**Signature of Chair of Governors:**

**Collective Worship Lead: Mrs Jackie Betts**

**Designated Governor: Reverend Chris Giles**

# Collective Worship Policy

## Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- 1) All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- 2) The daily act of collective worship should be conducted in accordance with the provision of Trust deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the church of England.
- 3) All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes or other combinations.
- 4) Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- 5) The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- 6) Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school (Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School) rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
- 7) The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for collective worship are secured.

## Anglican Faith and Practice (Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School only)

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as part of the heritage of our schools. We use the following indicators:

**BIBLICAL** - the Bible is used to encounter the teachings of Jesus and as a source book for inspiration and learning. Pupils are made familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. This primary encounter is within our acts of collective worship and reference to our Spiritual-i-tree where rotational and appropriate verses of scripture are displayed and referenced.

**LITURGICAL** - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings are used to create a framework for worship; (we primarily generate these greetings from the resource "Flippin'

Praise." Pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers - many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

**EUCCHARISTIC** - we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship in RE but we hope to introduce this annually through a school celebration with our local priest.

**SEASONAL** - We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of major Christian Festivals.

**SYMBOLIC** - We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.

### The Character of Worship for Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School and Hundon Community Primary School

Within the Federation we plan and deliver engaging and meaningful acts of Collective Worship; these acts of collective worship are referred to as Reflection Time at Hundon Community School.

Within Collective Worship we follow a four-fold structure of **Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending** which follows the Anglican structure of liturgical services. The **Gathering** serves to welcome everyone. Which we do by offering a greeting i.e. "Peace be with you" and a response of "And also with you" or some other suitable greeting and response. We use music to provide an atmosphere for quiet reflection upon entering and exiting Collective Worship. At Hundon there is gathering which takes the form of a mutual greeting "Good Morning everyone", "Good Morning (lead teacher's name), "Good morning friends."

The **Engagement** aspects takes the form of a story/parable based on scripture at Thurlow. The same essential format is used at Hundon but the main focus is centred around 'moral' messages based on the Federation's values; we periodically invite speakers in to talk to the children, we use film and visual materials, poetry and drama to stimulate ideas.

We **Respond** by having a moment of reflection on the message, before a daily prayer, sometimes written and lead by the children themselves. The final part (the **Sending** out) at Thurlow mirrors the dismissal at the end of the Eucharist; where Christians are challenged to go out, determined and joyful to live lives that serve to make a difference in the world.

At Hundon (as with all learning/cooperative experiences in school) the children are encouraged to go out and be better people than when they entered this reflective space.

The Family Celebration Presentations on a Friday at both our schools serves as an opportunity for individual classes to showcase their learning to the wider community of family and friends. Within this act of worship, we celebrate achievement inside and outside of school, we announce the team point totals achieved by our individual teams and we share

'Golden Mentions' where children have demonstrated our values during the week; these are read from our 'Golden Book'. The achievements inside school primarily focus on our reader, writer, mathematician of the week as well as our "top doodler" on Doodle Maths.

The acts of collective worship at Thurlow and Reflection Time at Hundon are planned to give the children a variety of spiritual experiences. The learning together is based on our 'Values for Life' interspersed with themes and festivals such as Remembrance, Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

These experiences might include:

- The telling of stories - from the bible, from other faiths and cultures, from biographies and from fiction
- A time for children to express their own opinions, through discussion and drama.
- From poetry and dance encouraging the children to appreciate the wonder of life
- Using music to provide an atmosphere for quiet reflection.
- Celebrating life by singing hymns and songs together
- Film and other visual materials
- Inviting speakers to the school
- A time in the week when we celebrate the achievements of individuals or whole class groups.

### **A Worshipful Response**

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through:

Silent reflection

Thoughtful spoken response

Spoken Prayer

The singing of songs

Liturgical responses (The Lord be with you - And also with you etc)

Taking an active part in reflection time, or even on occasions leading reflection.

The prayers used may be ones that the children have written themselves, traditional prayers or short prayers led by the teacher or visitor.

They are based on our 'Values for Life' themes and other Christian themes such as:-  
Forgiveness, Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Friendship, Honesty, Humility, Justice, Peace, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Service, Thankfulness, Trust, Truth, and Wisdom.

Children at Thurlow are invited to make a prayer their own by saying "Amen" (I agree) or by responding to "Lord, in your mercy" - "Hear our Prayer" and other liturgical responses. The modern version of the Lord's Prayer is taught and used on appropriate occasions.

Songs are carefully selected to reflect the themes.

The Collective Worship Leader plans the collective worship sessions using appropriate materials from a range of books and internet resources; of which Roots and Fruits form the base. The Collective Worship file, with the plans and materials are to be found in the staff-room. A record is kept in the planning file of all themes and material used. Teachers take it in turn to lead Collective Worship for a week at a time [excluding Fridays where the headteacher leads us in celebration of childrens' achievements so that they have time to develop the week's theme.

### **Aims for Collective Worship at Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School and Hundon Community Primary School**

Our schools' acts of worship aim to:

- help children to develop shared values and beliefs
- provide an opportunity for those who want to worship God
- help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them
- offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships
- provide regular time and opportunity for reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern, to the broader and more lasting concerns of life
- provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears.
- develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs
- provide time to share with others the things they have been doing, their thoughts and ideas
- give children experience of being active members of a caring community
- respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed etc.
- connect to the rest of the curriculum and environmental concerns

### **Creating an Appropriate Setting For Collective Worship**

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school halls, the classrooms and occasionally our local churches.

In order to, create an appropriate atmosphere for worship the schools create a focal point through:

Displays on the theme using the interactive whiteboard and the "Spiritual-i-tree".

A table with a cloth to reflect the Church of England calendar

A lighted candle

Other artefacts to enhance a message, prayer hands, prayer tree.

Music - Out of the Ark  
Silence for reflection  
Prayers occasionally written by children

When Collective Worship is taking place within individual classrooms a candle may be lit in the reflective space. This is lit by the leader and extinguished by a child at the end of the act of collective worship.

### **The Federation's Organisation of Collective Worship (Reflection Time)**

Thurlow Church of England (VC) Primary School has recently involved the children in the planning and leadership of collective worship.

There is an act of collective worship each day as follows:

<b>Monday</b>	Whole School Collective Worship	10.30 - 10.45
<b>Tuesday</b>	Key Stage Collective Worship	Timings flexible
<b>Wednesday</b>	Key Stage Collective Worship	10.30 - 10.45
<b>Thursday</b>	Whole School Collective Worship	10.30 - 10.45
<b>Friday</b>	Family Celebration Presentation	Thurlow 9-00 - 9.20 Hundon 2.50-3.10

At Thurlow our local vicar attends whole school collective worship weekly on alternate Mondays. At Hundon our local vicar is invited to lead/take part in special Christian festivals throughout the year.

Our Friday gathering is a Celebration Presentation to which parents are invited. We celebrate the good work and behaviour which has happened during the week. Acts of worship are occasionally held at the church, these include our Christingle Service, Harvest Festival and Easter Service. We also celebrate particularly: Ascension Day by holding an Ascension Nature Walk and a Pentecost Party; school calendar permitting; and Advent and Easter Pause Days where we collectively devote extra curriculum time to explore key aspects of the Church year.

All parents have a right to withdraw their children from the act of Collective Worship. Parents should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher; the onus is on the parents to provide suitable alternative RE/Collective Worship materials for their child during these periods of withdrawal; however, it is the school's responsibility to supervise the child during these periods if they are to remain in school and not taken off site for other religious instruction.

Teachers may also wish to withdraw from a Collective Act of Worship. Teachers should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher on the understanding that they undertake some other aspect of the curriculum in the sessions where they would otherwise be teaching B.R.A.V.E