

Trent CE Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*Inspired by Christ, Trent nurtures the
God-given gifts of every child to achieve a love of learning with academic excellence.*

**We aim to create a happy and secure Christian environment in which children can grow in confidence
and independence.**

**We promise to provide opportunities for every child
to be the best that they can be.**

***Faith, hope and love are promoted through all we do; 'Serve one another in love' underpins our
commitment to each other and the wider community.***

*Date of policy: October 2016
To be renewed: December 2019*

Collective worship at Trent CE Primary School.

Inspired by Christ, Trent Church of England Primary school aims to worship in all we do; we aim to be a place of goodness and hope where all children are valued and nurtured, and learn to serve one another in love.

Through daily collective worship we encourage children to know Jesus through the Bible and to reflect on how this. Assemblies prepare our children to live their lives with Christian values both in school and in the wider community, and in their lives beyond the family of Trent.

We aspire to live our values through:

- **Love** – *seeking what is best for others even at the cost of oneself*
- **Justice** – *protecting, upholding dignity and worth, being inclusive always*
- **Forgiveness** – *restoring relationships, growing in maturity and goodness*
- **Generosity and Gratitude** – *giving, sharing time and skills, openness, saying ‘thanks’*
- **Truth and Integrity** – *sincerity and honesty, true to oneself*

Because God is good we have:

- **Hope** – *the habit of positive expectation to transform lives*

1. AIMS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Worship is essential to the life of our school and plays an important part in the fulfilling of our role and mission as a Church of England school.

Through our worship of the Holy Trinity (as **God the Father, Jesus**, his Son and Saviour, and the **Holy Spirit**) we seek to:

- develop children's feelings of awe, wonder, mystery, delight and joy in God's creation, including the natural world;
- develop an understanding of Christian principles and belief;
- explore and explain with examples how we ‘live out’ our school vision and values
- observe the Christian Year, and celebrate major festivals and events;
- consider the importance of prayer, including opportunities for short reflection and silence; a time to talk to God
- make appropriate use of music, both sacred and secular;
- encourage children in the development of their own identity, their awareness of their own value, and the equal value of others, children and adults, and a sense of community;
- help children to respond to challenging experiences, to develop a moral sense, and to respond to moral issues;
- help children to explore beliefs, and understand other religions, especially those represented in school, and to respect people holding those beliefs;
- affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;
- provide the opportunity to celebrate achievements and special occasions.

2. WEEKLY PATTERN AND LEADERSHIP

Our collective worship has a distinctive pattern through the week.

Monday 9:00am:	Whole school assembly in the school hall, introduces the theme of the week, is led by the Head teacher or member of staff.
Tuesday 9.15am: Hymn Practice	Hymn Practice takes place for the whole school – led by our music specialist. Hymns are chosen to try and fit in to the theme of the week or what is happening in the Christian calendar e.g. Easter; it concludes in prayer.
Wednesday 9:15: Christ Church led	Whole school assembly in the school hall led by a member of the church. This is linked to the theme of the week.
Thursday 9.15am: Celebration	Whole school fortnightly Celebration assembly in the school hall led by a teacher OR Oak Hill Theological students according to the theme OR a teacher
Friday 9:00am: Sharing worship with home	Class sharing assembly. When not a class assembly this assembly will continue to follow the theme of the week and will also be led a teacher according to the termly rota. Parents and friends are invited to join us for worship where children take the lead.

The Wednesday assembly is one of our important links with Christ Church. Their ministers collaborate with the school to set the theme for the term ahead to incorporate our school values and integrate Bible study.

Each class takes a Friday assembly once per term (except Reception class who lead assembly in the summer term and help bring alive the story of Christmas at the end-of-term church Service).

All staff attend assemblies. All teachers will lead assembly according to the weekly theme at some point during the term.

3. PROGRAMME OF THEMES

To deepen our pupils' understanding of the school values, assemblies follow Christian festivals and national events at particular times but always with a focus, each week, on a specific value. For instance, at Harvest we explore generosity and gratitude; at Christmas we explore hope and at Easter our thoughts and learning turns to forgiveness and trust.

These themes are decided in collaboration with our church, Christ Church and are always rooted in Biblical. As the values are explored every term, children gain a wealth of Biblical knowledge.

4. What is a typical assembly like at Trent?

As collective worship is an important start to the day, children are expected to enter and leave the Hall in preparation for quiet reflection. The children enter to music often chosen to support the theme, it may be modern or secular or traditional.

The leader teaches interactively about the theme, this may include drama or film clips or children's work. A hymn is sung.

There is time for reflection and prayer. We encourage the children to join us in leading prayers.

(The hymn can be sung after the prayer as appropriate.)

Notices are given to the children about events, clubs etc.

The children leave quietly.

Teachers may choose to follow up the themes and messages of the daily worship in class, especially when supporting the spiritual, moral and social growth of their pupils.

Year 6 monitors prepare the hall with chairs for staff and benches for Year 6. They also set up the music for the assembly. At the end they clear away, leaving the hall ready for lessons.

5. LINKS WITH RE, SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Our assemblies provide an opportunity for all children, staff and visitors, to take time to reflect on God's Word, His love and importance in our life. We encourage the children to be actively involved by asking questions to challenge their understanding as well as developing the children to be critical thinkers. We also support the children to use what they have heard and learnt during collective worship in their day-to-day lives.

For example, our Behaviour Policy is clearly led by a desire to act with love and forgiveness. We believe in restorative justice, rather than punishment. In understanding generosity and gratitude, we appreciate the power to give and the grace to receive.

Class assemblies on Fridays will provide a link with RE teaching within the classroom as well as other subjects; we aim to celebrate the wonder of God's world and His many gifts.

6. RESOURCES

The children will be introduced to a variety of Christian music, both old and new. Children sing from words shown on powerpoint.

The opportunity may be taken to enjoy a variety of peaceful secular music as children enter the hall before assemblies and leave at the end.

RE resources are stored in the RE cupboard and are available for assemblies. There are costumes available in the props cupboard for drama.

Visitors are encouraged to join us in collective worship. God's word is regularly shared with pupils from the Oak Hill Theological College, as well as Christ Church but we ask all visitors to join us in prayer.

Over the year examples used during our assemblies are from many different cultures and times of history but they always carry, explicitly, the Christian message.

7. INCLUSION

All children attend assembly and have the opportunity to pray during a time of reflection. We recognise that at Trent there are children from different faiths who pray alongside each other. Characteristically, our spoken prayers begin with an address to Our Heavenly Father.

Appropriate provision is made for teaching staff who are not Christian to support the school's Christian message during collective worship and class assemblies.

Every year, following consultation with the pupils, there is a focus World Faith Event. This knowledge prepares children for life in modern Britain, building tolerance and understanding of their community and the world around them.

8. GOING TO CHURCH

Trent enjoys a strong partnership with Christ Church. Three times a term, we worship in our church: for the Welcome Service, for Harvest, Ash Wednesday and Ascension as well as Christmas and Easter. At the end of the school year, the Leavers' Service sends all pupils on their way with a blessing for the future. Visiting the Church is also an important part of the curriculum; it is always open to Trent pupils.

9. WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As part of our distinctive Christian ethos we value the school coming together for collective worship each day. It is an important part of life at Trent.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with Mrs. Yarwood following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship.