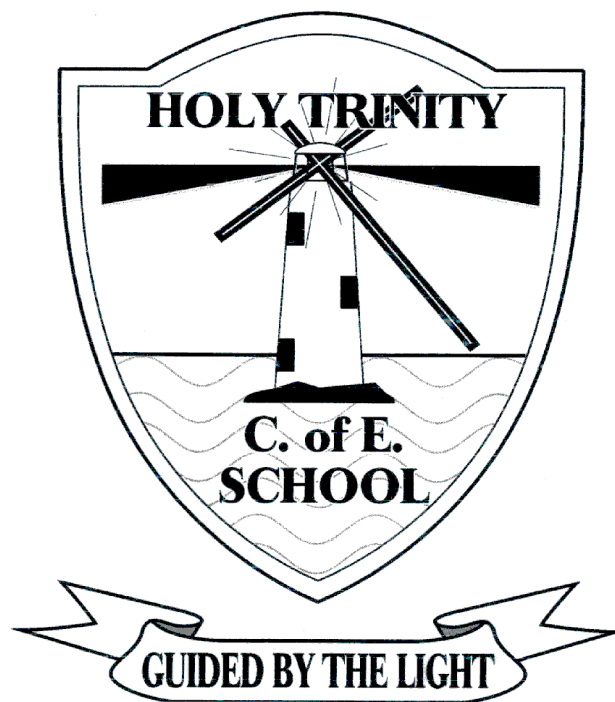


# HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## WORSHIP POLICY



<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	April 2023
<b>Next review due by:</b>	April 2024

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**1. Rationale and the duty of attendance by staff:**

- 1.1. 'Daily worship is at the heart of the life of a Church School. It offers regular opportunities for the school community to worship God, to share its beliefs and to reinforce its Christian values. The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education expects all teachers in its diocesan schools to support this by their attendance, although it recognises that teachers in Voluntary Aided Schools have a statutory right of withdrawal on grounds of conscience.
- 1.2. It does not, however, support the practice of allowing staff to be absent regularly for non-contact time, believing that it is more valuable for staff to be part of the act of worship'.
- 1.3. Worship is an offering of all members of the community, and the involvement of staff will give this message to the pupils. Where worship is offered in Key Stages or classes, it is still be important for the staff to worship with their pupils.
- 1.4. In primary schools it is important that class teachers are able to follow up the teaching in the act of worship with their own class. It is also important for teachers to be involved in school worship for continuity in developing worship themes across periods of time.'

**2. Introduction:**

- 2.1 Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values of respect, honesty and love, and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, our clergy-led worships reflect his diversity. We recognize and follow the Church's liturgical year (we follow the liturgical calendar and colours for our worship table). The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.
- 2.2 We respond to world events and the lives of those within our world through our worship; we aim to react appropriately through the Christian faith according to the needs of the global community and the school community that surrounds us.

**3. Responsibilities:**

- 3.1. The organisation and implementation of the worship rota lies with the Worship lead, presently Miss. I Hamilton (from September 2022). Staff plan and lead the whole school worship according to a rota.
- 3.2. Senior Leaders lead the school in worship more often than class teachers. Other teaching staff lead phase worship approximately four times a year.
- 3.3. During times where social distancing may be required, class teachers will deliver worship to their own class, with SLT and clergy members delivering remotely to the whole school once a week.
- 3.4. During times of any National school closures teachers will ensure worship is provided as an opportunity daily via the remote learning platform Google Classroom).

#### 4. Aims

Collective worship at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values of respect, honesty and love
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

#### **4. Acts of Worship:**

- 4.1. Acts of worship within our school are distinctive through their Christian context and connections. They include prayers, scripture readings from Bible sources, responses from the school congregation and a time for reflection. Hymn singing provides a chance for the school to unite in songs of praise.
- 4.2. We aim to use a symbol of light (linked to our school vision of being 'Guided by the Light') to focus our act of worship and a representation of the cross to remind us of the centrality of Christ.
- 4.3. The School Hymn and the School Prayer are used throughout the year to remind children of their special association with Holy Trinity Church of England School. Children are encouraged to take an active part in our worship through leading readings and prayers on a regular basis.
- 4.4. We meet as a whole school collectively twice per week (Monday – whole school collective worship and Friday – whole school celebration worship) and the remaining days are phase led worships and class worship which can be delivered at an age-appropriate level.
- 4.5. Responses are made by the school congregation as part of daily worship and serve to make 'Peace' central to the start of each day and to acknowledge the Holy Bible as texts shared with us through God. The Grace is shared at the end of each daily worship.
- 4.6. We aim to involve pupils in acts of daily worship and are exploring ways they can play an even greater part in leading worship. There is a group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who are 'Leading Lights'; they introduce and close the worship, introducing Bible readings and prayers.
- 4.7. We evaluate worship regularly which continually shapes future planning and leads to improvement. Senior leaders and a selection of pupils from all year groups will be part of the evaluation process.
- 4.8. As part of our whole school worship, we aim to celebrate Holy Communion (Eucharist) regularly. We visit a local Christian church at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academic year for services and at other times for curriculum visits and workshops.
- 4.9. The content of staff-led worship is guided by the Diocesan notes provided, with staff interpreting the guidance in a way that befits the Christian themes contained therein.
- 4.10. We offer prayer as part of our thanks before lunch (grace) and share a prayer at the end of the school day.
- 4.11. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and worship. However, this school exists specifically for those parents who particularly want Church of England teaching and worship to form a positive part of the school environment for their children. Parents wishing to discuss this matter should make an appointment with the Head Teacher.

#### Availability

This policy will be reviewed after three years and presented to the SLT and the Governors for amendment as required.

**Policy Written: April 2023**

**Policy Review Date: April 2026**