



## **Collective Worship Policy**

- Written September 2023
- Review Date September 2025

### **School Vision:**

Our vision is: Our school, our church, our community

*Elsecar Holy Trinity is a nurturing, inclusive, Church school where everyone is valued as a child of God. We warmly welcome people of all faiths/worldviews and backgrounds, fostering respect, compassion and forgiveness. Rooted in faith, family and community, we aim to grow together in love, developing wisdom, knowledge and aspirations for a brighter future.*

### **Aims and objectives:**

At Elsecar Holy Trinity CE Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. We see it as the 'heartbeat' of our school. Our act of Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and concentrates largely on the affirmation and celebration of the Christian beliefs, traditions and our school's values.

### **Through collective worship in our school we aim to:**

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- help children enter into a loving relationship with God
- provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- encourage pupil participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship, partner discussion of questions or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- strengthen and support the school community giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- celebrate the gifts/talents that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- encourage respect for others religious beliefs and practices
- foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- follow the example of Jesus Christ.
- nurture reflection, stillness and prayer

### **Legal Framework**

As a school we recognise the need to ensure that there is a daily act of collective worship for all pupils (in line with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988) and a timetable for daily collective worship has been agreed. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. The daily act of collective worship takes into account the age aptitude and background of pupils.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Withdrawal from collective worship will only be made following discussions with the Head teacher and a written request from parents.

### **Worship Values**

John 13:34-35 "...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

Elsecar focuses on 18 core Christian values over 3 years in collective worship. These values are built into the ethos and teaching of the school and are modelled by everyone who works at Elsecar. We teach the children that everyone is welcome in God's family, regardless of differences and this is rooted in the belief that every person is created in God's image.

Our collective worship planner incorporates each of the Christian values, ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to learn from Biblical teaching and reflect on how they can demonstrate these values across their lives.

### **Planning, Delivery and Evaluation**

Our collective worship planning reflects our values focus for that term, the Church calendar, our school development priorities and current events.

Our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and demonstrates how we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The worship council contribute ideas to planning and identify ways that collective worship themes can be developed across school.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection in worship. Worship is also planned linked to our diversity key driver, which is rooted in our Christian values and teaches children about equality and promotes diversity. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school.

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall and once a week in Holy Trinity Church. An appropriate atmosphere is created through the use of:

- An alter
- Christian cross
- candles
- music
- prayer
- song
- ritual and liturgical responses

Pupils are beginning to play a key role in worship, through planned contributions, drama, prayers, lighting candles and spontaneous contributions during worship.

The worship councillors support the evaluation of worship termly and an end of year evaluation by all pupils.

### Collective Worship Pattern

A range of people are encouraged to lead Collective Worship. The Head teacher, the Assistant Head teacher and all teaching staff lead Collective Worship on a regular basis.

Day	Worship	Rationale
Monday	Kind Heart & Star of the Week	Celebrate the things the school holds of value (kindness, generosity, endurance, friendship, thankfulness) and meaning. An opportunity for talents and aspirations to be highlighted. Parents are invited to share in this collective praise.
Tuesday	British Values Collective Worship	Reflection on British Values linked to current news topics.
Wednesday	Roots & Fruits Worship	Our Roots and Fruits provides creative collective worship based in Christian value. Rooted in Bible teaching, Christian values represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life. Each term focuses on one Christian value (theme) which links with the season of the Church year.
Thursday	Church Worship with Revd Steve	A deeper reflection on the Roots & Fruits theme agreed by Rev Steve and the collective worship leader.
Friday	Singing to Worship	Thoughts and reflection linked to our current hymns.

As the leader for collective worship, which is distinct from that of my role as the RE subject leader.

The job description is working with other members of the school community to:

1. Produce a policy statement for collective worship.
2. Ensure there is a development plan for collective worship
3. Develop long (Roots and Fruits contents), medium (Roots and Fruits planning) & short term planning (Teacher PPTs) which is reviewed on a regular (e.g. 3 yearly) basis
4. Ensure that there is a balance of material from different traditions throughout a term.
5. Ensure that collective worship regularly includes opportunities for silence, reflection & contemplation.
6. Ensure that collective worship is appropriately evaluated by members of the school community.
7. Give all staff the opportunity for CPD support in collective worship.
8. Link worship to Christian Values

### Prayer and Reflection:

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, the school prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet for personal reflection and prayer. Worship begins with welcome words when lighting the candle.

Before our church service the children participate in a hebrew call to prayer.

**Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring:**

Details of each act of worship are stored on shared as PPTs created by staff for Roots and Fruits worship. Pupil evaluations are also recorded here. The worship leader monitors collective worship regularly through observations and using pupil voice. Staff CPD is provided for those that lead collective worship and the collective worship planner is shared with all staff.

**Visits and Visitors:**

As part of the curriculum, Elsecar Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. Holy Trinity Church is our most valuable resource, with the whole school attending at key times of the year including Harvest, Christmas and Easter in addition to visits linked to the RE curriculum. Members of the Church community attend and contribute to our whole school services.

The Collective Worship Leader and Revd Steve liaise to discuss various aspects of the spiritual life of the school and this ensures an effective line of communication between the school and the governing body regarding these matters.

**Equal Opportunities:**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

We aim that the collective worship at Elsecar Holy Trinity reflects the Christian foundation of the school and:

- teaches us that we can be inspired to be 'lights', inspired by Jesus' declaration: 'I am the light of the world' John 8:12
- enables and equips us to be 'givers of light' to others, living our values and vision in everyday life
- gives opportunities for us to gather together as a school family ("For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" Matthew 18:20)
- provides an occasion to praise and glorify God

- cultivates respect of others, as individuals, made in the image of God
- develops an appreciation of every individual's worth and value to God and their community
- promotes the Christian values of the school
- fosters feelings of awe and wonder
- enriches the spiritual awareness of each individual
- equips children with an appropriate 'worship and prayer vocabulary'
- enables children to become familiar with Anglican traditions, including those reflected at our partner church, Holy Trinity Church, Elsecar
- provides opportunities to observe and celebrate major and some minor Christian festivals and periods
- gives opportunities for children to meet people from the local church community
- offers opportunities to bring prayer to God and Jesus, for a variety of reason and for a range of people (including praising, asking, thanking and saying sorry)
- celebrates each individual's God-given talents, gifts and achievements

**Prayer Life and Prayer:**

Prayers should be said at the beginning and end of day, as well at lunch. This is in addition to the prayers said in daily collective worship.

**Spiritual Development:**

Our strong Christian character is central to all that we do; our Christian vision and values are embedded in all aspects of school life and we strive to share these with our families and the local community. As a diverse school family, we live, love and learn together: living in harmony and peace, loving each other as sisters and brothers in Christ and learning to develop our God-given talents.

We aim to develop each individual's understanding of spirituality. Alongside our vision, inspired by Jesus' proclamation: 'I am the light of the world' John 8:12, we teach skills of reflection, empathy and enquiry, whilst promoting attitudes of open-mindedness and sensitivity.

Our curriculum, behaviour, collective worship and Religious Education approaches reflect this, as does our environment. We strive to show our distinct Christian character in the welcome which we offer to all visitors to our school.

Links with our partner church, Holy Trinity, are strong and very important to us. Our association with the church and the part the church plays in our vision, collective worship schedule and prayer life is essential to our school.

Children and staff visit our church weekly for worship led by the vicar and teachers. The church also welcomes the school at major festivals, including Christmas and Easter, as well as for special events to recognise the community (e.g. Christmas tree festival).

**British Values:**

BRITISH VALUES are taught through the curriculum, as well a weekly collective worship.

Schools have a duty to actively promote the fundamental British values of **democracy**, the **rule of law**, **individual liberty**, and **mutual respect and tolerance of those with different**

**faiths and beliefs.** These values were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011.

By promoting and teaching British values, we aim to create harmony and appreciation of difference, ensuring that our children and young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Worship leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Head teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of governor's: \_\_\_\_\_