



Thorner's Church of England VA Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Our Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos:

By working hard together, our small steps will build your path to the future
"The Lord is my Shepherd... he guides me along the right paths" Psalm 23

Blessed child,

*Together we - community, church and school - promise to help you thrive
as you start your journey and to give you real hope for your future.*

*Through exploring the rich, vibrant tapestry of experiences on offer here
at Thorner's, you will develop the confidence, inner compass and skills to
help you flourish and choose your own direction.*

*By working hard together, and with God's grace, we will make small
steps along the way.*

*small steps that build into a path;
a path that leads to the opportunities you deserve;
opportunities that give you real hope for your future.*

The Policy demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and ethos of the whole school based on Christian values, and particularly the core values adopted by the school – love, forgiveness, endurance, truth and hope.

At Thorner's School we consider collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore, collective worship at Thorner's School is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive, and engage all learners so that they are able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching which explores and relates to the school's core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide

- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey and to understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, Stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be an inclusive experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Thorner's School include opportunities for:

- The whole community to celebrate
- Sharing and experiencing differences
- Developing a culture of learning
- Building a sense of group identity
- Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- A break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet)
- Learning how to behave in a large social group
- Exploring feelings and emotions
- Learning how to perform in front of an audience
- Learning how to respond to a performance
- Making visible the school's leadership
- Developing inner awareness

Legal requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation. Thorner's CE VA Primary School meets this requirement.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. It is intended that consultation with the Headteacher will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship.

Planning a Collective Worship programme

The Collective Worship Coordinator plans the themes for acts of worship. Each member of staff uses the theme for their plan. Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities.

In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost
- Selecting themes based on Christian values (we use the 'Values for Life' resource), and also appropriate to the above and to the pupils' aptitude and ability
- Using the Bible as a source for inspiration and learning
- Introducing, in a simplified form, the set order of Anglican worship
- Identifying a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms which creates a framework for worship within the school
- Learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages

- Recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend collective worship
- Experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.

There are special services from time to time such as for Harvest and Remembrance and when pupils leave the school to move to their next school.

Twice a term the whole school walks to church to participate in services led by the Vicar and to which parents and members of the community are invited.

At least twice a year there are class celebration assemblies in which the achievements of pupils in each class are celebrated. Pupils contribute through a range of creative arts such as music: playing instruments and singing, art, drama, dance and poetry. Parents and members of the community are invited.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of collective worship. The Ethos Council members lead a half termly act of worship to illustrate the value for that half term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through:

- the Ethos Council
- regular whole school assemblies
- an annual questionnaire

Pupil views are recorded in an Assembly Book.

The Governors' Communication and Ethos Committee monitors and evaluates collective worship and reports to the Governing Body. School governors also participate in meetings of the Ethos Council and observe acts of worship.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Thorner's School has a daily act of Collective Worship which is organised as follows:

Monday: Hymn Practice

Tuesday: led by a member of staff

Wednesday: led by a member of the Bride Valley Team Ministry, using 'Open the Book'

Thursday: led by a member of staff

Friday: led by a member of staff

All children participate unless their parents have requested that they are withdrawn. Children from the senior most class are the readers and actors for Thursday's acts of worship. They also read and join the bell ringers at church services.

Visitors invited to lead worship should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non - religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values and include a recognition of the church year and make space for other national events.

In accordance with the Equality Duty we seek to ensure that all pupils achieve their best, according to their capabilities and regardless of their special needs, disability, gender, race, culture, social, economic, ethnic, religious background and denominational diversity.

Thorner's CE VA Primary School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

Date agreed by Communication and Ethos Committee: November 2022

Date adopted by Governing Body: November 2022

Date to be reviewed: November 2027