

Policy last reviewed:	November 2024
Next review due:	November 2026
Member of staff responsible	Chaplain
Governor's Committee:	FGB

Vision Statement: Our vision is to be a centre of excellence for learning, inspired by Christian values, where every person in our school community fulfils their potential.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to be a deeply Christian inclusive community which values every individual as a child of God.

Values Statement: The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its students.

Dignity Underpinning all that we do is the core belief in the ultimate worth of each person as a child of God – precious, valued and loved by God. Dignity comes from the knowledge of our ultimate worth as human beings.

Community Having understood our value as individual human beings, we express this value through the quality of the relationships that we share with each other. Community, living well together, is of very great importance to us as a school, as is the place we each take in the wider community locally, nationally and internationally.

Wisdom As a school we seek to foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge and truth. This is achieved through the nurturing of academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence, resilience and creativity across the breadth of the curriculum.

Hope As we prepare our students for the future, we look to open up horizons of hope and aspiration, encouraging our students to embrace these with confidence and sending them out to make a difference to the world in which they live.

Purpose

The Holy Trinity School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England School and it has a Christian foundation. The School aims to provide a specifically Christian form of education which reflects the philosophy summarised by Christ in his words, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.....'. Christian worship is a way to express this love.

Aim

The School aims to provide a daily collective act of worship which it regards as an essential part of each student's daily programme. Particularly through this, but also through the School's curriculum and extra-curricular activities, it is hoped that students will come to worship the one true God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Definition

Worship is the reverent homage which we give to God.

In the words of Archbishop William Temple, "Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable."

Rationale

God is almighty; the bonding force and energy of the entire universe.

God is the creator of all things, seen and unseen.

God creates and sustains all life.

God has created us in His own image and put His spirit into us.

God has given us the ability to discern right from wrong and the freedom to choose.

God loves us unconditionally in spite of our failure to love and serve Him.

God gives us the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

God gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten, guide and support us and strengthen us as we try to follow and serve him.

Context

Worship is a natural and important part of Christian life. It is the heartbeat of who we are and so it is an integral part of our life at school and each student's curriculum. Parents who accept a place for their child at the school do so on the understanding that worship is an integral part of each child's daily programme and that each child attends a collective act of worship each day. A particular focus for worship is provided for each student in the context of daily collective

worship. This will always have a Christian focus but may include information relating to other faiths and religions.

Approach

a) The collective act of worship takes place each day in the following forms:

- Year Group collective worship – once a week
- Tutor Group collective worship – twice a week

Any other gathering or activity e.g. Pastoral Assemblies or Reading in Tutor Time will contain, as an absolute minimum, a prayer and often a short bible reading or thought drawn from the Chaplain's materials

- A celebration of Holy Communion/ The Lord's Supper for those who wish to attend takes place at least half termly
- Other organised times of worship include the annual Carol Service, an Act of Remembrance, Leavers' Services, Easter, Christmas and end of year assemblies.
- Leaders of residential school trips are encouraged to provide the opportunity for daily worship.

b) The format of each collective act of worship should contain the following:

- An explicit or implicit reference to God, as appropriate, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- A Bible reading, verse or passage, will be included as appropriate;
- A prayer, addressing God, should, as a rule, be part of each act of worship;
- The collective participation in a hymn, drama, dance, Christian song or chorus, may where appropriate, be part of each act of worship.

c) Under normal circumstances, collective worship is led by Year Leaders, members of the Senior Leadership Team, members of staff, students, the school chaplain and visiting speakers on a rota basis. Visiting speakers may include representatives of other world faiths. The chaplain will oversee all assemblies ensuring consistency of materials and use, appropriate content, timely delivery and accommodation of visiting speakers.

Tutor Group collective worship is led by the tutor and often facilitates student leadership. The theme for these will always match the theme in Year Group collective worship ensuring consistency. All tutor time materials are introduced each day with the over-arching themes for the half term and the week and should aim to include foci and information from other forums such as the Equality and Diversity, Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Teams. They will include the school's vision and mission statements with links to the Bible and the school's four underpinning elements subsequently always encouraging love for God and others. Teachers are encouraged to promote and incorporate these values when planning lessons.

At least one Year Group collective worship each half term will be student-led under the guidance of a linked member of staff and the chaplain and at least one other collective worship each half term will include student involvement.

If possible, a music item performed by a student or group of students will take place as students enter and exit the hall. This gives opportunity for student involvement, student exhibition and facilitates a quieter, reflective start and end to assemblies.

The Communion Service is led by an ordained minister who is known to the school.

d) The School may hold occasional mission activities.

e) All meetings are expected to begin or end with prayer.

f) All staff appointed are asked to uphold the Christian foundation of the school and, if teaching staff, be willing to deliver/facilitate tutor group worship including prayer.

This Policy takes account of and is fully consonant with our School Core Values and our obligations under our Equality and Diversity Policy.