



**TEMPLE SOWERBY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

## **2025**

<b>Approved by<sup>1</sup></b>	
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<b>Approved by governors:</b>	
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<b>Review date<sup>2</sup>:</b>	16 Jan 27

# Collective Worship Policy

## **Our Vision:**

### *Living for learning; learning for life.*

*At Temple Sowerby CE Primary School, our vision for the school community is rooted in a deep respect for our human, social, and cultural values, expressed in a caring Christian ethos. We aim to provide high academic standards and a wide range of experiences and opportunities. In doing so, we encourage all children to flourish by giving them the skills they need to become good citizens and to discover life in all its fullness (John 10:10).*

## **1. Introduction**

Temple Sowerby CE Primary School caters for pupils aged from 3 to 11. This collective worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind and is written in accordance with guidance from Cumbria's SACRE. The school has consulted with governors, staff, pupils and parents.

## **2. Aims**

Our collective worship strengthens the community ethos of our school. It is planned to be inclusive, invitational and inspirational, and to enable all pupils of any religion or none to take part as appropriate. The aim of our collective worship is to:

- make values explicit and develop pupils' thinking so they are able to explore their own beliefs and motivations
- help pupils develop their own spirituality and foster sensitivity to the beliefs, practices and values of others
- build a sense of community so pupils consider their place in the community and what it means to be a citizen
- help pupils know and celebrate who they are and who they might become
- mark occasions of celebration and commemoration
- provide quiet time for reflection upon the fundamental questions of existence
- encourage hope, aspiration, awe, wonder & develop self-understanding, empathy, compassion and wisdom

All present (pupils, staff and visitors) should feel valued whatever their faith or beliefs with no assumption of a shared religious commitment. Collective worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, and joy.

## **3. Organisation**

The school provides a daily act of collective worship which is of a broadly Christian character and which draws inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions. Pupils should be prepared to participate, listen, watch, discuss, answer questions, sing and share in quiet times. Typically, these acts of collective worship last approximately 10-15 minutes.

On Mondays, collective worship is conducted by the headteacher, whilst on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, collective worship is led by class teachers or by pupils. On Thursdays, groups of pupils

come together for a singing-themed collective worship, whilst on Fridays the whole school gathers for collective worship where pupils receive award certificates which reinforce our school values.

Collective worship may also be led by visitors to the school. Each month, we welcome a visitor from NISCU (Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union) to lead an act of collective worship, and the whole school visits St James' Church in Temple Sowerby for an additional collective worship led by our vicar at the start of each month.

#### **4. Content**

The content of collective worship reflects our school's Christian values (kindness, responsibility, resilience, hope, community and courage), with a different value being addressed each half-term. It also incorporates opportunities to consider key dates in the church calendar and other events of national or global importance, such as Remembrance Day or Black History Month.

The content provides opportunities for reflection and for celebration and recognition of each pupil's potential. The acts of worship will:

- Be educational - a learning experience for all.
- Be inclusive - an experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Have a sense of occasion and offer something class lessons don't.
- Meet the needs of our particular school community.

#### **5. Components of our Collective Worship:**

Each session of collective worship in school shall contain the following set elements:

- **Gathering** – *Pupils will enter the school hall/classroom with stimulation of the senses. This may be an image or artefact on display, as well as music, sounds or scents. A pupil will light a candle to signify the start of worship and welcome all with the words "May your light shine and peace be with you", Pupils respond with "And also with you."*
- **Engaging** – *This is the main content of the session. It will always contain reference to the bible. It should include a variety of styles and presentation and may include kinaesthetic learning; there might be a story, role-play activity, presentation or video clip, and it might be delivered by the teacher or a guest. It will usually follow the planned theme, but may also reference a current event or festival.*
- **Responding** – *Pupils are given time to reflect on what they have seen or heard. This may be prompted by reflection questions, may provide an opportunity to engage with our reflection area or include a period of thoughtful silence.*
- **Sending** – *Worship will conclude with a prayer and the candle will be extinguished. Music or singing may take place as pupils quietly leave the worship space.*

In all of the above, we encourage participation and leadership by the pupils and the wider community.

#### **5. Evaluation**

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by senior leadership, governors and pupils.

#### **6. Resources**

Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) and planning resources to support collective worship are purchased regularly. Staff also attend CPD to help with delivering quality collective worship.

#### **7. Withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship but we believe our collective worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils so it is hoped that no one will be withdrawn. Parents may contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

# Appendix 1

**Guidance for teachers and visitors – all collective worship should:**

**Create an atmosphere of calm and stillness:**

- *make sure the hall is already set up and the children enter quietly*
- *ensure children wait outside until all classes are ready – otherwise pupils have to wait a long time*
- *have other members of staff present*

**Be welcoming and inclusive:**

- *Begin collective worship with a pupil lighting the candles and the following welcome:*
- *Pupil lights a candle and says “**May your light shine and peace be with you**”*
- *Pupils respond with “**And also with you.**”*
- *Include opportunities for pupils to participate in or lead*

**Ensure the collective worship is invitational:**

- *use phrases like “Some Christians believe...”*
- *“I am going to say a prayer. Please put your hands together and close your eyes. Those of you who wish to can join in with the Amen at the end”*

**Be inspiring:**

- *use quiet music at the start and lighting of candles to signify the beginning and end*
- *try to create an atmosphere to appeal to the senses – have *images or artefacts on display, use music, sounds or scents**
- *use a mixture of different approaches including kinaesthetic to engage*

**Be reflective:**

- *always include an opportunity for quiet reflection*
- *give staff and pupils (Worship Group) an opportunity to evaluate collective worship*