



Foston C of E Primary (VC) School & Terrington C of E (VA) Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Love, Learn and Grow Together

At Foston CE (VC) and Terrington CE (VA) Primary Schools, our commitment is to exploring sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community, and inspiring creativity. Our core Fruit of the Spirit values of love, joy, patience, and self-control are rooted in the words of St Paul (Galatians 5 v 22-23). These Christian values are fostered in the pupils and staff, building an ethos where all can flourish.

Last Review Date: September 2023

Next Review Date: September 2025

Rationale

Foston Church of England Primary School and Terrington Church of England VA Primary School are Church of England Schools. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values that are built on the words of St Paul the Apostle, and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Foston/Terrington Primary Schools is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school and the wider community.
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and explore and relate to the schools' core Christian values: love, joy, patience, and self-control.
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- will 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.
- will 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 invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Collective Worship and the Law

The law requires the Headteacher and the Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

Parents are aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is done through the school prospectus and on the school website. The governing body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian

foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to staff on their appointment.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school updated forms/school prospectus.

Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim:

- reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- reflect the Ethos Statement and Mission Statement of the school
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors, and members of the local community.
- Celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- Show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Terrington and Foston Church of England Primary Schools are committed to ensure that every child will benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities.

The Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity as we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship. We attempt to mark out this special time by the lighting of a candle and giving children the space and time to reflect.

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, and evaluation.

The themes are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All the schools' Foundation Governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process, evidence of this can be found in our pupil questionnaires.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Engaging, thought provoking collective worships are planned from Simply Collective Worship, giving pupils and staff the chance to reflect on a variety of themes.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship from Year 1 through to Year 6 is held 5 times a week at the start of every day. These are taken by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Collective Worship Lead, Teachers, and Members of the local church communities. Early Years pupils have their own worship in their classrooms.

Acts of worship generally follow themes which are linked to the schools' vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors 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 cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Victoria Allon (Collective Worship Lead), Helen Shields (Foundation Governor), Reverend Douglas Robertson (Terrington), Reverend Nigel Benson (Foston) Reverend John Hayward (Foston) are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Staff use the planning and guidance provided to lead worship both within their classes and to the whole school. Staff are asked to feedback on the planning and to evaluate how the children are responding to the worship sessions they lead.

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

Pupils are encouraged to monitor and evaluate worship half termly through responding to questions in class and also through pupil voice.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils, and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents

and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our collective worship lead and governors and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our schools. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).