



Townlands C of E Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Rachael Johnson (Chair of Governors)

Date: January 2026

Next review due by: January 2029

Townlands School Vision

A journey of learning in the light of God's love.

"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade." The parable of the Mustard seed - Mark 4:30-32

Rational

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values of faith, honesty, love, friendship, forgiveness, hope and respect. It celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions and recognises and follows the Church of England's liturgical year. Worship also considers and recognises world faiths. The daily act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Christian worship is an honouring of God. It acknowledges His transcendence and Holiness, His 'worth' and 'value'; it is a loving response to His nature as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God. At Townlands, Collective Worship takes account of the varied backgrounds of the pupils and staff, as well as their ages and aptitudes. In Collective Worship children and adults will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels; some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be "at the threshold", interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of Collective Worship may be a time of real worship of God.

At Townlands, we believe that 'the most' we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish. It is the task of Collective Worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Townlands is distinctively Christian and supports the school's vision statement and values. It is **invitational**, **inclusive** and **inspirational**. It is organised, planned, resourced, delivered and evaluated. It is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that worship time is a period of calm reflection. It is regarded as a special time and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. We create this appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. We provide opportunities for pupils and staff:

- to praise and reach out to God and to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to provide an opportunity for participants to share some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level

- to develop personal spirituality especially through reflection and prayer, whereby encouragement is given to explore personal beliefs and an understanding of God
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith and the recognition of non-Christian faiths
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values - love, faith, hope, forgiveness, friendship, honesty, respect
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it, by celebrating and giving thanks for the achievements within the school including our local and wider communities
- to be inclusive and unifying, recognising the personal integrity of all members of the academy community
- to support the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child and adult
- to encourage participation and response

Following the Anglican Tradition

When planning Collective Worship at Townlands, we reflect the Anglican tradition by:

- using the Bible as an inspiration for themes and stories
- observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Eucharist, Pentecost and Saints Days
- learning and saying Christian prayers; in particular the Lord's Prayer
- singing a wide variety of hymns; from traditional to modern
- using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, colours of the church year, candles
- the use of readings, poetry, prayer, silence and reflection
- ensuring that our Christian vision, values and character support those assemblies whose focus is on the achievements and learning of the children

Organisation of Collective Worship at Townlands

- All teachers and children are involved in the delivery of Collective Worship.
- Vicars and Ministers within the Earl Shilton Parish are timetabled to take Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship times and content are planned. It typically includes music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer or the Lord's Prayer. Whether in the hall or in the classroom, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

Gathering	Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony
Engaging	Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content
Responding	Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways

Sending

Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

- The school endeavours to hold an act of Collective Worship at the Church of St Simon and St Jude, Earl Shilton for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year.
- Typically, we hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school as shown. If children do not gather in the hall, collective worship still takes place across the school in classrooms.

Monday	8.45 - 9.00	Whole school Collective Worship
Tuesday	8.45 – 9.00	Whole school Collective Worship
Wednesday	8.45 - 9.00	Whole school Collective Worship
Thursday	8.45 - 9.00	Whole school Worship through singing led by the Music co-ordinator
Friday	8.45 - 9.00 or 9.00 – 9.30 (approx.)	Bible Stories Class assembly

Where circumstances mean that the above format of face-to face worship cannot take place, then provision will be made for remote delivery of faith and worship. This format will ensure that both children, parents and the wider community still have the opportunity to discover God's presence and receive spiritual support at home as well as in school.

As a school, we acknowledge that occasionally, the format of our daily act of worship may be altered to accommodate changes within the school day.

- We reinforce the teaching of the Holy Trinity during Collective Worship and through RE lessons. We include at every whole school gathering for Collective Worship an opening prayer which is recited by staff and children:
We meet in the name of God:
God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit:
God is One.
- In each collective worship there is also a gathering and sending response.
- Opportunities are provided for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate Collective Worship.
- We reflect on the festivals and events within the Christian calendar.
- Once a year each class carries out their own assembly and these generally reflect and build upon topics that are taught as part of the school curriculum. Parents and carers are invited to these.
- Special assemblies celebrate achievement, behaviour and character.
- Music plays a vital role in Collective Worship, providing children with opportunities to learn and understand hymns, connect with the liturgical calendar, and engage in moments of reflection.
- Outside speakers who comply with our Collective Worship Policy are welcomed.
- Our stakeholders are invited to attend church services, class assemblies and specific acts of worship. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit.

- Daily grace is said before lunch in each class.
- The children and staff together have written a school prayer.
- We encourage staff and children to respond to themes and prayer from Collective Worship. Reflection, outside of Collective Worship is strongly encouraged. Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote reflection. A whole school reflection area enables children of different ages to have the opportunity to gather and think. Displays in around the school promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions that have developed from themes either from Collective Worship and/or RE.

Child-Led Worship

At Townlands, children learn how to be actively involved and lead in acts of worship from an early age. This involvement progresses as the children move through the school, with children increasingly planning and leading their own acts of worship, both in their own classrooms, and for wider audiences.

Faith Ambassadors

Our Faith Ambassadors play an important role in leading collective worship, supported by staff to ensure it is inclusive, meaningful, and reflects our school's values. They have delivered thoughtful and inspiring worship experiences in school and contributed to our church services.

The Role of the Governing Body at Townlands

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship Policy is based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- Ensuring that governors are aware of the requirement under Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) for the inspection of Collective Worship.

The School Development Plan references the distinctive Christian ethos of the school and gives an indication of the future intentions and arrangements for Collective Worship and/or RE.

The Role of the Head Teacher at Townlands

The Head teacher is responsible for:

- The legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship and will take account of the policy and guidelines of the Diocese of Leicester.
- Ensuring that governors and staff are well informed and receive training.

The Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinators at Townlands

The Collective Worship Co-ordinators have responsibility for managing the worship on a day-to-day basis by ensuring that legal requirements are complied with. They also keep in touch with national developments in school worship and act in an advisory capacity to support colleagues. Co-ordinators:

- Write and review the school's policy for Collective Worship, ensuring that staff use the document.
- Assist the governors and Head teacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regards to Collective Worship and reports to the Head teacher and governors on matters of review and development.
- Ensures that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the School.
- Writes and reviews an annual development plan for Collective Worship.
- Draws up Collective Worship rotas.
- Involves colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- Monitors and evaluates Collective Worship in all its forms.
- Keeps up-to-date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information.
- Are responsive to the needs and views of members of the academy community; those of the Christian faith and those of other/no faith.
- Are responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation by Collective Worship Coordinators

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process, which supports the school's self-evaluation, and is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body. All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to evaluate and reflect after every act of worship in order to develop and improve their practice. Children, staff, parents and carers all have the opportunity to complete an evaluation. Other forms of monitoring include: observation, documented photos, PowerPoints and pupil interviews.

Legal Requirements

All maintained schools in England, including Church of England (Anglican) schools, are legally required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils, a duty established in the Education Reform Act 1988 and consolidated in the Education Act 1996. In Anglican schools, worship follows the school's trust deed and the principles and practices of the Church of England, making it Christian in character. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship, either wholly or in part, and schools must comply with such requests. Collective worship forms part of the school's wider responsibility to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, as reflected in legislation and associated national guidance.