Tunstall CofE Primary School

Worship Policy

Tunstall CEP Vision

‘Thinking deeply, loving abundantly, serving graciously, for the Glory of God’

‘We believe that God’s abundance is for everyone, nurturing a servant heart for the local community of Tunstall and beyond. Learning opportunities are broad, inclusive and inspiring where creativity is nurtured and harnessed at every opportunity through our unique, Discovery Curriculum. Children and staff are safe, secure and empowered to be risk takers. We are a culturally diverse school who value each other's uniqueness with dignity and respect. We think deeply, love abundantly and serve graciously for the Glory of God and thus uphold our biblical underpinning of John10:10 being: ‘A place where everyone can flourish’.

Date: September 2024

Review Date: September 2027

FRIENDSHIP, KINDNESS, SERVICE, FORGIVENESS, PERSEVERANCE, TRUTHFULNESS

Our vision is underpinned by our core Christian values of Friendship, Kindness, Perseverance, Service, Forgiveness, Truthfulness

We uphold the ethos of: 'Thinking deeply, loving abundantly, serving graciously, for the Glory of God'

Thinking deeply - Wisdom

Proverbs 3 13: *"Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding"*

Loving abundantly – Dignity

1 Corinthians 13:4-8*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails"*

Serving Graciously - Community

John 12:26 *"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him"*

For the Glory of God – Hope

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*

Introduction

As a Church of England school collective worship is the beating heart of our school life. It brings and gives life to all we do. Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a school family.

Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of 'Respect for myself, Respect for others and Respect for God's world' and celebrates the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and 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.

Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

Aims:

Aims of collective worship

Collective Worship offers pupils, staff and the wider school community the opportunity to:

- Gather together to share sacred moments of joy, challenge, grief and love.
- Explore the school's distinctive Christian vision and values in action
- Reflect on the nature of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still, pray and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Explore Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate significant and special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection whether they are engaged in learning in school or at home.
b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.

d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship through invitational and inclusive language:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

Legal Requirement:

The law states that in all schools there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time during the school day and in any groupings.

The 1998 Education Act confirmed parents' legal right to withdraw their children from Collective worship.

Responsibility for the Daily Act of Worship:

Arrangements for Collective Worship in a voluntary aided school are made by the Head teacher. The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring requirements are met.

Foundation governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring, so far as is practicable, that the character or foundation of the school is reflected in worship.

Timing of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum. It should be given a special place in the school day. It must be distinctive and identifiable as such if it is to meet the legal requirements.

Complaints:

The governing body have a complaints procedure in place in the event of a parent being dissatisfied with the act of worship.

Inspection:

Religious Education and Worship in a Church of England School are inspected under Section 48 Procedures – Statutory Inspection of Anglican Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Inclusive, Invitational, Inspirational – What is Collective Worship like at Tunstall CEP?

Collective Worship occurs every day, to which every child within the school is invited to attend (whole school, phase, key stage or in the classroom).

All teaching and ideas are Christian and follow the teachings of the Bible, which are explored and made relevant to life today. All acts of worship have a Bible story or Bible passage as its focus.

The Leader creates a welcoming and inviting atmosphere conducive to worship, by **Gathering**, **Engaging**, **Responding** and **Sending**:

- Playing worship or quiet reflective music on arrival and greeting children and adults ("The Lord be with you", "And also with you.")
- Displaying an image, quote or question to engage the children in the theme
- The hall is set up with an 'altar table' as a focus for worship: Table cloth, (which is the correct colour for the liturgical calendar), cross and candles
- We welcome the children by lighting the candle and by saying an Anglican liturgical greeting /prayer (The Lord be with you...)
- We ensure the children always have a role within the worship. This could be planned or spontaneous and engage children individually, in groups or as a whole congregation. We are creative and allow the children freedom and opportunities to be creative themselves within the worship experiences
- Children are given opportunities to discuss, in talk partners, share their ideas/answers to posed wondering questions. (I wonder what respect means? What does it look like in our school?)
- Singing forms part of our daily Collective Worship
- There is time for children to be still and silent to reflect and think about the key thoughts and or the Bible message
- Children are given opportunity to pray, either personally (silently) or out loud as a group or on behalf of the other children
- The children go out with a thought, verse, prayer or question to enable them to continue their thinking and spur them into action (when appropriate) following the worship session
- We close with an Anglican liturgical sending prayer ("Go in peace to love and serve the Lord", "In the Name of Christ, Amen") and extinguish the candles

At Tunstall CEP School, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis. Children are invited to help lead or support our daily Acts of Worship. Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship

they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship. Pupil worship leaders (Leading Lights) are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Parents/carers, the community and friends are invited to join the children at class led Worships. If their child is in receipt of an award or are performing, parents/carers may be sent a personal invite. Parents/carers and the wider community are also welcomed at significant Christian celebration services such as Harvest, Remembrance Christmas and Easter. Worship is not limited to the school hall and may take place in class, in Church or outside. St John, The Baptist, Tunstall congregation may join us for our Friday Celebration and in turn we join them by year groups leading a Sunday service once a month in the church.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	Whole school worship led by Mrs Andrews
Tuesday	Phase 1 and 2 Worship or Worship in class led by a class teacher on a rota basis
Wednesday	School worship led by Rev Alan Pinnegar or a church member of St John's Tunstall and Phase 1
Thursday	Two Choral Worship for different Phases, led by a member of SLT
Friday (celebrating achievement)	Whole school celebration worship led by Mrs Andrews

Planning:

A yearly plan or worship themes is provided by Canterbury Diocese; this is supported by materials provided by SLT when necessary. The plans are kept on the staff drive under collective worship. An overview of worship for the term is e mailed to class teachers and Rev Alan before the beginning of each term. We have six Christian Value and focus on one of these each term. Class led Collective Worship can focus on a Christian Value or follow the Diocesan plans.

The leader for collective worship will:

- Ensure that all pupils have access to a daily act of collective worship, therefore meeting statutory requirements.
- Ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Attend regular training and network meetings with Canterbury Diocese
- Produce and regularly review the collective worship policy to ensure that it remains reflects current practice and thinking.
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of collective worship across the school.
- Ensure all stakeholders know what the expectations of worship are when leading, planning and joining worship.
- Join those who are leading worship to provide supportive feedback on how worship could be developed.

- Evaluate the impact of collective worship on the whole school community by gathering pupil and adult voice.
- Signpost staff to a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and resources, to help develop their confidence in leading acts of worship.
- Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited to lead collective worship.
- Meet with and encourage pupil leaders of worship to enable them to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship.

Visitors:

At Tunstall CEP, we recognise that the children's worship experiences can be enhanced by guest input. We are keen to involve members of the local clergy and parish members as well as other groups, such as charities. Guidelines which will help these visitors are included as Appendix A.

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies, (https://www.tunstall.kent.sch.uk/key-information/policies/data-protection) This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and our school's vision. They will be supported and monitored as part of the ongoing evaluation process of worship.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates all acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop through observation and discussion of impact.

We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our (worship committee, during full governing body meetings) and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

Health & Safety:

All children will be taught the appropriate handling of artefacts and materials. Special care is to be taken when using candles.

Staff Development:

Staff development will be identified through performance management and individual needs. The Continuous Professional Development policy will address staff development issues.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, so would welcome the opportunity to discuss this decision with them. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw children from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

Appendix A

Guidelines for Visitors who are Leading School Worship

These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with any Visitors Policy which already exists in school. They are a supplement to, not a replacement for, such policies. It is recognised that not all of these guidelines will apply to every context. The guidelines assume that a teacher is always present when a visitor is leading worship.

It is helpful if visitors:

- Are familiar with the school, e.g. through a prior visit
- Are clear about their brief, the time available to them
- Are encouraged to bring resources and artefacts to illustrate their contribution
- Are sensitive to the response of the group to what is being said
- Do not use the opportunity to influence pupils unfairly, or to attempt to win pupils over to their faith stance
- Do not have to compete with school notices – these should be shared at another time.

It is helpful if the person responsible for the act of worship:

- Has met the visitors in order to plan the act or worship in the light of their language and communication skills and their particular expertise
- Has provided the visitors with a clear written brief and with an idea of the number, age, gender-balance, religious and cultural background and ability of pupils in the group they are visiting.
- Has given the visitors directions to the school, the school's telephone number, details of resources and equipment available to them and offered hospitality and expenses
- Has ensured that equipment is available and working
- Has encouraged the visitors to speak from their personal perspective of faith and not necessarily in behalf of the religious community to which they belong (e.g. a visitor is able to say negative things about their own traditions that a teacher cannot)
- Has prepared the visitors for awkward questions from pupils
- Is aware of the demands on the visitors (e.g. whether they have taken time off work in order to make the visit)
- Has an alternative act of worship prepared in case of an emergency
- Offers feedback.

It is helpful if the pupils:

- Know who the visitors are and are aware of their background
- Understand the purpose of the visit and how it fits into the longer-term plan
- Have framed some questions to the visitors; have briefed a 'welcome' for the visitors and a 'host'/'hostess' for the visit
- Follow up the visit appropriately, relating it to their curriculum
- Express their appreciation of the visit (perhaps through letters/drawings sent to the visitors, or a vote of thanks at the end of the worship).

It is helpful if the visitor leading worship:

- Remembers they may be speaking to a wide age range
- Uses a visual focus where possible
- Tells a story whenever possible, rather than reading it
- Plays music to create the right atmosphere
- Builds in a moment of reflection – it doesn't have to be a prayer but could be a thought to take away
- Remembers that young children are easily excited by someone or something different!

Tunstall CEP Christian Values Tree



We have six core Christian Values which we focus on in turn throughout the school year. Each of these values is underpinned by scripture and related to Jesus, which is what makes our values distinctively Christian. Mrs Partridge designed and painted our 'Values Tree' and you will see the individual leaves change throughout the year, as we change focus on our Christian Values.

Term 1 – Friendship

We are trustworthy friends like Jesus was to his disciples. We help each other to grow, ensuring that we celebrate our uniqueness.

Proverbs 17:17 'A friend loves at all times'

Term 2 – Perseverance

We have a positive attitude, even in difficult times, because God has a plan for us and is always with us.

Hebrews 12:1 'We must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us'

Term 3 – Forgiveness

We mean sorry when we say it and forgive others so we can live in peace and harmony with God and each other.

Ephesians 4:32 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you'

Term 4 – **Service**

We go 'the extra mile', putting others before ourselves as we want to have a servant heart like Jesus**.**

Acts 20:35 'It is more blessed to give than receive'

Term 5 – **Kindness**

We have warm hearts and show kindness to everybody just as Jesus did.

Ephesians 4:32 'Be kind to one another'

Term 6 - **Truthfulness**

We are honest with ourselves and truthful towards everybody because it gives us God's peace in our hearts and allows others to trust us.

Proverbs 16:8 'It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich'

"A Place where everyone can flourish"

(John 10:10)