



# Leatherhead Trinity School and Nursery

## Collective Worship Policy

**Status:** Non- Statutory

**Responsible Manager:** Headteacher

**Review Period:** 3 years

**Responsible Governor:** Foundation Governors

**GB Ratification:** Autumn 2024

**Next Review Date:** Autumn 2027

*Collective Worship should be the beating heart of our school. It is a special time of the day where we come together a school family and invite all people to explore the bible and what it teaches us. It invites us to pray together and we welcome visitors into our school every week to help us lead and inspire children, adults and the wider school community.*

### **Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To be inclusive and invitational to all
- To provide an opportunity for the children and staff to worship God;
- To reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs;
- To enable children and adults to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children and staff a sense of community;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children the elements of worship and give them the experience of worship.

### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character', we normally base our Acts of Worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and belief of all members of the school. To reflect the diversity

within our school and the wider community, we also include important festivals and occasions of other faiths in our collective worship calendar.

### **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. On Friday there is a celebration of achievements which includes an act of worship through prayer

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We explain to the children that the act of worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect the children and adults to behave in an appropriate way. Therefore, they are asked to be quiet and thoughtful at the appropriate times, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate appropriately with prayers and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles, or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Headteacher, SLT or class teachers normally conduct the acts of worship, and the local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups also lead the acts of worship on a weekly basis. Children sometimes lead Collective Worship in Class Assemblies.

The school take the themes of our acts of worship from:

- the traditions of the Christian faith
- our vision – All things are possible for one who believes
- the Christian Values of Respect, Love, Truth, Forgiveness and Commitment
- the Building Learning Power habits of Curiosity, Resilience, Reciprocity, Perseverance, Resourcefulness, and Reflectiveness
- the festivals and events of the Christian calendar as well as the calendar of festivals and events in other faiths.

We plan our acts of worship using stories and teachings from the Bible. We work chronologically through the year and around the key Christian festivals. As part of the acts of worship, the children are encouraged to take part in church services at the end of each term, to which parents are invited. They are also invited to particular family services held within each of the churches linked to the school.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend the act of worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This is in compliance with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Headteacher, in conjunction with the governors and the church group to monitor the provision of collective worship.

### **Linked Policies**

This policy is linked to other policies within the school that help promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole child, for example the PHSE, SRE, Equal Opportunities, SMSC and RE policies