



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Philosophy

At The Cornerstone Academy Trust (TCAT) we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

At TCAT we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at TCAT that worship should: -

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through the promotion of our school values:

Fortune Favours the Brave: Feeling confident to try new things & take risks, supporting children to reach their full potential.

Freedom: Individuality, responsibility, community.

Forward thinking: Embracing technology, trying new things, preparing for the future.

Feeling Valued: Friendship, respect, listening, kindness, accepting differences, safety, promoting self-esteem.

- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Provide members of the school with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, quiet reflection or the lunchtime grace.
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher who after consultation with the governing body has appointed an RE coordinator with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at TCAT takes into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The head teacher and governors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At TCAT we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in our schools.

Organisation

There will be agreed themes across year groups and key stages that will reinforce the school values (see above). The subject leader for RE will work with teachers to support the delivery of key themes when needed. All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

The Lunchtime Grace

Children are given the opportunity to take part in a short reflection before eating lunch. Children across the school take part in saying the following 'grace':

'For what we are about to receive, may the lord make us truly thankful, amen'.

This grace has been chosen to encourage thankfulness, as part of collective worship, with a neutral faith focus.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Worship themes will centre around Religious or Cultural Calendar events as well as the school values: These values are broad enough to ensure that those leading collective worship may cover content based on their own perspective. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

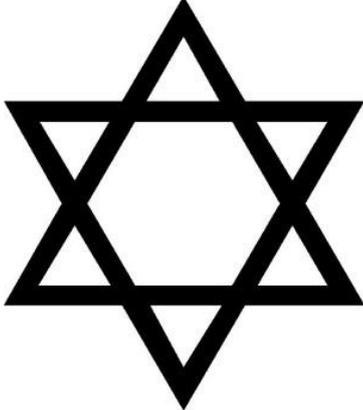
We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools 'Student's Voice' regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the Head teacher.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept in the loft and can be brought down by request. Please see appendix 1; 'RE Catalogue of Resources'.

Appendix 1: Catalogue of Resources

Name of religion	Resources Available
<p>Buddhism</p> 	<p>Buddhist Faith Pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Puja bowls -Buddha Statue -Prayer Beads -The Monkey King Storybook -The Lion and the Jackal Storybook
<p>Sikhism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sikh Doll -Sikh Gurus Book -Prayer Beads -Comb -Khalsa headdress
<p>Hinduism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Diva Lamps -Divali Cards -Rakhi Bracelets -Model of Lakshimi -Dancing Sticks -Aarti Lamp -Sari -Henna Paste & Mehndi Patterns -Rama and Sita Statue
<p>Christianity</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wooden Nativity Set -Bible -Baptismal Candle & Cards -Candles x 6 -Set of 3 crosses
<p>Islam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Quran Stand & Cover -Prayer Mat -Embroidered cap -Prayer Beads -Eid Cards -My First Quran (Book) -The Meaning of the Holy Quran (Book)

	
<p>Judaism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seder Plate -Havdalah candle -Mezuzah Case & Insert -Dreidels -Hanukkah Cards -Sammy Spider's First Hanukkah (Book) -Rabbi Doll

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