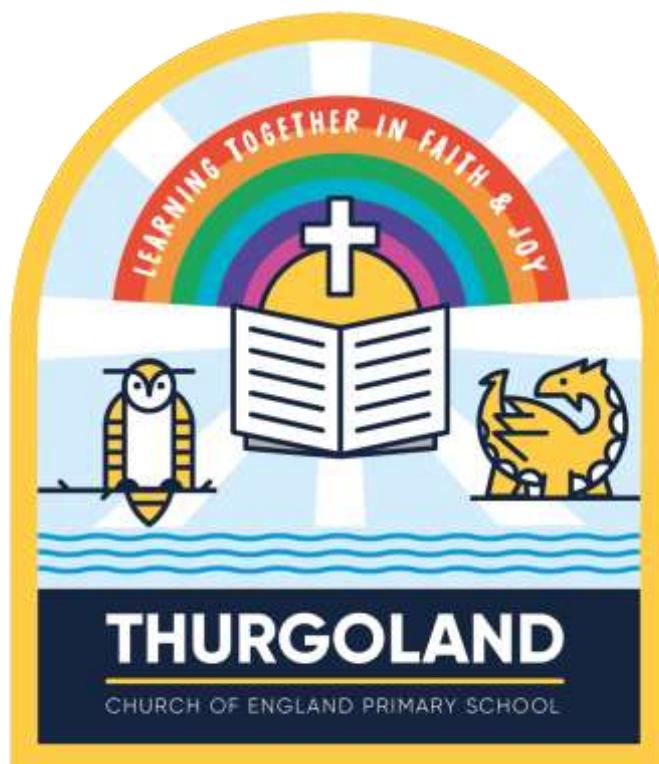


# Thurgoland C. E. Primary School

## Policy for Collective Worship



**Approved by:**

**Headteacher Mr D Jordan** Date: 11.07.2024

**Chair of Governors Mr N Shiggins** Date: 11.07.2024

**Review date: September 2027**

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:



## Our Christian Vision

### LOVING GOD, BLESS THURGOLAND SCHOOL



Children at Thurgoland CE Primary are encouraged to see that everyone is special and unique and, in this way, gain a sense of ourselves as a unique individual – that true self, or best self, God has created us to be.

The Church of England states that, when it comes to education,

**"THE VISION IS OF GOD-GIVEN FULLNESS OF LIFE IN WHICH EACH PERSON IS BOTH BLESSED AND A BLESSING"**

(Church of England Vision for Education p.12)

### AND MAY IT BE A PLACE OF FAITH AND JOY



As educators we are all passionate about the way children are formed by the environment in which they grow. To become our best self we will need the environment that enables this.

Our vision is rooted in the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13 31-32): **A mustard seed...**

**"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED, WHICH A MAN TOOK AND PLANTED IN HIS FIELD. THOUGH IT IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL SEEDS, YET WHEN IT GROWS, IT IS THE LARGEST OF GARDEN PLANTS AND BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT THE BIRDS COME AND PERCH IN ITS BRANCHES."**

We are a small school in a valley – but we believe like the mustard seed that high standards of education can have far-reaching impact and that our children will grow into those who bless others through their careers, caring and vocations. One tiny seed just like one small child carries a world of potential.

Thurgoland CE Primary School is surrounded by beautiful countryside where farming and growing is part of daily life. The parable of the mustard seed provides a link with the historic roots of the school.

With our caring and nurturing ethos firmly embedded in all that we do, every member who joins our school whether child or adult, like the small mustard seed, is welcomed into a learning environment so that they grow and flourish in its broadest sense – academically, socially, morally, physically and spiritually.



## BY WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WE CAN LOVE, LEARN AND RESPECT



Through working and playing together in peace and harmony, Team Thurgoland embody the concept born from the African philosophy of "ubuntu" – a concept in which your sense of self is shaped by your relationships with other people – underpins how we work together in peace and harmony to become our best self. It's a way of living that begins with the premise that "I am" only because "we are."

Our children, our staff, our families and our community – together we are Team Thurgoland.

"IT HAS BEEN SAID BEAUTIFULLY AND PROFOUNDLY, THAT OUR GOD IN HIS MOST INNER MYSTERY IS NOT SOLITUDE, BUT A FAMILY."

(John Paul II)

"I AM BECAUSE  
WE ARE."

## WE KNOW YOU ARE WITH US. HELP US BECOME OUR BEST SELF

At Thurgoland CE Primary School, everyone is inspired to reach their full potential and become their best self, to make the world a better place.

"BELOVED, WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN NOW: WHAT WE WILL BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED" (1 JOHN 3:2A)

We are committed to promoting a growth mindset. In line with Christian teaching, at Thurgoland CE Primary School, there is a big emphasis on everyone striving to move from their former self to a self that has to be found: growth and renewal.

TO MAKE  
THE WORLD A  
BETTER PLACE



AMEN

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

### **Policy Statement**

In Thurgoland CE Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Thurgoland CE Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

### **Church of England Guidance**

Collective worship policy at Thurgoland CE Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

### **Legal Requirements**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Thurgoland CE Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The Governing Body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

### **The right of withdrawal**

In Thurgoland CE Primary School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

## **Organisation of Worship**

Themes for our Collective Worship at Thurgoland CE Primary School reflect Christian beliefs, values and attitudes. They are presented in a way that is relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes, backgrounds and experiences.

Collective Worship in our school reflects traditions of worship in the Christian Church, containing elements of praise, prayer, teaching, thanks and participation

Much of the teaching aspect is achieved through videos, story, poetry, drama, art, events in the news or aspects of daily life – at home and at school. Individual acts of Collective worship usually contain a time for hymns/songs, music and prayer.

Prayer and reflection are key parts of our worship may include formal prayers, children's own prayers or silent reflection. These may focus on thanks and praise, prayers for ourselves and/or prayers for others, and saying sorry. Prayers are also shared in class at key points in the school day.

There is an altar table at the front containing a Bible, a candle and a cross. Towards the end of collective worship, the candle is lit to represent the presence of God and to provide a moment for pupils and staff to reflect on their own spirituality.

The colour of the cloth on the altar is changed to represent the time in the liturgical year.

We encourage pupil involvement and participation in all acts of worship, both within the act of worship but also taking on roles and responsibilities in preparation and delivery. We have a Worship Council, made up of 3 KS2 pupils, who meet regularly to lead and oversee the worship in school and provide a strong pupil voice within our worshipping community. Our worship council take an active role in leading daily Collective Worship. They will always introduce the worship and often contribute their own prayers. They also operate the PowerPoint and music for songs, as well recording the theme of that day's act of worship in a floor book.

## Monday – Whole School Collective Worship

This is a whole school worship and is led by the Headteacher or Rev. Chris. The worship is interactive and often involves drama, children's responses, always singing and finishes with a closing prayer. The theme for the week is discussed in this assembly, which links with our school's 5 core values e.g.

Autumn week 3 16.09.2024	Be Resilient	Any Excuse! We often make excuses	Am I <u>like</u> the king in the story who welcomed all kinds of people, or do I sometimes make up excuses as to why I leave out some people?	Dear God, We are sorry for the times when we make up unnecessary excuses – please forgive us. Please help us to be people who are welcoming to everyone around us. Please help us to include others so that this school is a happy place for everyone.	'Thank you, Lord, for this new day: <a href="https://youtu.be/njsdfxK9FcQ">https://youtu.be/njsdfxK9FcQ</a>
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## Tuesday – Class Worship

This is led by teachers who continue the discussion of the key question of the week and allow the children more time for reflecting on the week's theme and teachings.

## Wednesday – Whole School Collective Worship.

## Thursday – Spiritual Worship through song.

This takes place in key stages: EYF and KS1 and KS2. Each half term a selection of worship songs are identified as reflecting the values and theme of that half term ie 'Harvest and New beginnings, Christmas, Servant Leadership, Easter, Growth and Celebration. Reflection on how the songs have a spiritual impact upon us is shared.

## Friday – Celebration worship

The children share their learning journey of the week and identify how they have flourished and learnt living life in all its fullness. Sometimes, this is a class collective worship sharing whole class learning. The children are presented with their 'star' awards for showing how they have been their best self. Highest class attendance is celebrated.

Once every half term, the celebration assembly is hosted at Holy Trinity church and parents are invited to attend. To welcome them into Team Thurgoland, every EYFS child receives a standing ovation on entry to their first church celebration worship and when children leave in Y6 there is a special service held.

A LA visitor commented on how special this celebration worship was:

*"The school assembly held at the local church was warmly supported by parents and the community... The atmosphere was truly celebratory... While there was a serious tone as children were encouraged to strive to be their best selves, the event was also filled with fun. This blend of celebration, along with a spiritual and moral focus, showcased the high quality of education the children are receiving."*

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The impact of collective worship at Thurgoland is monitored and evaluated through a range of practical, reflective strategies that actively involve leaders, children, staff, governors and clergy. Worship leaders routinely review sessions and seek feedback from children and staff, enabling them to evaluate engagement, clarity of messages and links to our Christian vision and values. Children are encouraged to reflect more deeply on worship through age-appropriate key questions, written and verbal responses, and discussion within classes and the Ethos Group, ensuring pupil voice directly informs future planning. Monitoring is further strengthened through the involvement of the Ethos Group, staff observations, and regular dialogue with foundation and link governors. In particular, Revd Chris, in his role as link governor, offers informed advice, challenge and clear next steps following worship observations and discussions. This ongoing cycle of reflection, feedback and professional dialogue has led to tangible developments over time, including clearer thematic planning, stronger links to daily school life, and more purposeful opportunities for pupil reflection, ensuring that collective worship continues to grow in depth, relevance and impact across the school community.

## **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils.