

# North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation

## Foston Church of England Primary (VC) School & Terrington Church of England (VA) Primary School Collective Worship Policy



### Love, Learn and Grow Together

*Terrington and Foston Primary Schools are Church of England Schools managed through North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation which comprises four schools.*

*The whole Federation's commitment is to explore sustainability, affirming diversity, embracing community and inspiring creativity. For Foston and Terrington as Church of England Schools this vision is based on a Biblical text from Galatians 5 v 22-23 regarding the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The relevance of this vision to our schools' context is that they are rooted in the countryside and local communities of North Yorkshire and their purpose is growing pupil's spiritual development and preparing them for life in the wider diverse world so that all can flourish,*

Last Review Date: November 2025

Next Review Date: November 2027

## Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of Foston and Terrington Schools and reaffirms our vision and associated values that are built on the words of St Paul the Apostle, from a Biblical text from Galatians 5 v 22-23 regarding the Fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It celebrates the central role that each child must play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will 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.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

*"We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.*

*Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this."*<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, Collective Worship at Foston/Terrington Primary Schools is planned:

- To explore the schools' vision and how that underpins our values and virtues such as resilience.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teaching of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experience of prayer, stillness, workshop and reflection.
- Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.
- To be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school and the wider community.
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways for example using music, silence, prayer, story, reflection as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions Anglican worship and festivals.
- Will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance including festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in planning leading and evaluation of collective worship that lead to improving practice.

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<sup>1</sup> CEE0 Guidance for Collective Worship (2021)

## Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and the Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. In addition to school worship special celebrations sometimes take place in the Church.

Parents are aware that the schools are church schools and as such collective worship is based on the foundations and the principles of the Church of England. This is done through the schools' prospectus and websites. The Governing Body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear about their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation school confirmed in an Ethos Undertaking preserving the Christian Distinctiveness of Foston and Terrington Schools made by all governors.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Parents contact needs to be made with the Head of School. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus and on the school website.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

Foston and Terrington Church of England Primary Schools are committed to ensuring that every child will benefit from Collective Worship whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate for a range of abilities. Collective Worship will be an invitational experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of a different faith. The approach is in line with the Schools' Inclusion and Equal opportunities Policy.

## Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity as we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship. We attempt to mark out this special time by the lighting of a candle and giving children the space and time to reflect.

Collective worship is treated like any other part of teaching and when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, and evaluation each person leading worship is expected to deliver with the same thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools' COWO (Collective Worship) Group. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective Worship. The themes are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Monitoring of Collective Worship by governors is planned by to the Christian Distinctiveness Working Group and reported to the full Governing Body.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process, evidence of this can be found in our pupil questionnaires.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Engaging, thought provoking collective worships are planned from Simply Collective Worship, giving pupils and staff the chance to reflect on a variety of themes.

## **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole School Worship from Year 1 through to Year 6 is held 5 times a week at the start of every day. These are taken by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Collective Worship Lead, Teachers, and Members of the local church communities. Early Years pupils have their own worship in their classrooms.

Acts of worship generally follow themes which are linked to the schools' vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

## **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

## **Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Victoria Allon (Collective Worship Lead), Reverend Douglas Robertson (Terrington), Reverend John Hayward & Reverend Nigel Benson (Foston) are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Staff use the planning and guidance provided to lead worship both within their classes and to the whole school. Staff are asked to feedback on the planning and to evaluate how the children are responding to the worship sessions they lead.

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a regular basis.

Pupils are encouraged to monitor and evaluate worship half termly through responding to questions in class and also through pupil voice.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our schools regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on their school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils, and governors to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our

collective worship lead and governors and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our schools. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).