



Tring School

## Collective Worship Policy Statement

<b>Policy Review</b>	
Review Schedule	3-yearly
Reviewed and Accepted by:	Local Governing Body
Date of Review:	January 2019
Date of Next Review:	January 2022

Tring School is committed to equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers. Policies have been written and reviewed with due regard to the Equalities Act 2010.

### **Scope**

The RLP is at the heart of the community delivering an inclusive education to students of all ages. Our mission is to embrace challenge and to celebrate success in all that we do by striving for every learner to reach their full potential. The culture that we have in our schools means that they each retain their distinctiveness but learn and grow together and remain collectively responsible for providing all students with exciting and inspiring opportunities.

### **Introduction**

We believe that students thrive in a happy, secure and caring environment. It is an essential part of a school ethos that the values of peace, love and caring for others should be core values that we respect and agree.

**For Church Schools in the Ridgeway Learning Partnership the following biblical narrative applies:**

*‘O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness’*

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## **Policy Statement**

Tring School is an Academy with a Religious Character (Church of England) and aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its students whilst remaining sensitive to the views of other faiths.

Tring School is the only secondary school in the area providing education for the majority of 11-18 year olds in Tring and the surrounding villages many of whom do not come from a worshipping background.

## **Aims**

The aim of Collective Worship at Tring School is to introduce students to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions. In brief, Collective Worship is the term for what might be called the 'religious aspect' of assembly and or tutor time.

Our definition of collective worship is the Church of England's definition:

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

The school's distinctive Christian ethos is further carried into the life of the school by the display of the School Prayer around the school and Christian symbols in reception.

## **Vision**

Our collective worship is central to enabling the vision of the school become a reality. Through participating in collective worship we want students, in the presence of God, to be able time to reflect and pray so that the school vision becomes something which is lived.

(Tring School's vision can be found here  
<https://www.tring.herts.sch.uk/349/school-vision-values>)

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

### **Statutory Requirements and Inspection**

As an Academy with a Religious Character (Church of England) there will be a regular Section 48 (SIAMS) inspection which will have a focus on the collective worship. The aspects which are being inspected can be found in appendix 1.

Legislation allows parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship (and Religious Education). At Tring School this needs to be done in writing to the Headteacher. Members of staff have the same right. (The Education Reform Act 1996)

## **Contents/Procedures**

### **The content of Collective Worship at Tring School:**

- a. Collective Worship will be Christian. Diversity is valued and other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship.
- b. Collective Worship can involve either House groups, or individual tutor groups can hold their own acts of worship. Students will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways. In particular each tutor group will be encouraged to lead an act of worship.
- c. The daily PowerPoint/slides will be used to introduce a weekly religious theme to tutor time
- d. Themes for collective worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to a continuing story or the exploration of particular religious practices. The school chaplain(s) will be consulted on appropriate themes.
- e. When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or international, of which the students may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.
- f. Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school an Act of Worship will be held at Christmas at St Peter & St Paul in Tring.
- g. The school chaplain(s) or a minister from Tring Team Parish will lead Collective Worship weekly.
- h. Ministers from other Christian denominations will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship. From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship. Any visitor leading collective worship should be given a copy of the Diocese of St Albans Faith Visitors' policy appendix 2.
- i. Collective Worship takes place in non-curriculum time and although it should connect with, and reinforce the curriculum, it should not be constrained by it.
- j. It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in church schools actively to evangelise. There is, inevitably, an aspect of any act of worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community. This is done, however, by including those present - not by using Collective Worship to campaign for some kind of "commitment" which is inappropriate in a school setting. Collective Worship is collective not corporate. In other words it is something we do together but embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

- k. Not all assemblies are Collective Worship. It is often appropriate / essential for the school to gather together for a variety of reasons, including information, and discipline but this is assembly not worship, even if it begins or ends with a prayer.

#### **The style of Assembly/Collective Worship at Tring School:**

- a. The Monday assembly will be an explicit Act of Worship led by a Christian minister, normally one of the school chaplains. The assemblies during the remainder of the week will concentrate on appropriate themes that help develop the vision of Tring School.
- b. Collective Worship should provide an opportunity for students to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- c. Collective Worship may include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. The playing of music into and out of the assembly can set the right tone.
- d. There may be room for questions and answers - and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
- e. There may be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
- f. Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored but never be a time simply for corporate discipline!
- g. Collective Worship should allow opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will, however, be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.
- h. Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending and always include a prayer from the Anglican tradition or the School Prayer.
- i. Those leading Acts of Worship should be encouraged to use modern technology to present Christian images and music from the religious traditions.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

A record of collective worship will be kept and a member of the Leadership Team will review Collective Worship once a term. The Students, Learning & Community Committee of the Local Governing Body will receive a report once a year and will be responsible for reviewing the Collective Worship policy every three years. A collective worship monitoring form is available (Appendix 3)