

Collective Worship Policy

Weston Favell CE Primary School



Living, Learning and Growing Together in God's Love

Jesus said, "I came to give life – life in all its fullness."



We are a school rooted in God and our community through our founders. We continue their vision to welcome, nurture and enable all to flourish and develop as unique individuals who share their gifts with each other and the wider world.



Collective Worship Policy 7.0

This document is a statement of the aims, beliefs and organisation of Collective Worship at WFPS.

12.12.19

'Collective worship is a valuable and unique opportunity to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, as such, deserves to be taken seriously and offered in a meaningful way. With care, it can provide a time for students and staff to come together in a spirit of harmony, to have a time within the very busy school day to reflect, be still and be uplifted. Again, with care, it can be a time when all feel included and valued, regardless of denomination and belief.'

Diocese of Salisbury

Rationale

Collective Worship at Weston Favell Primary School

At WFPS, Collective Worship is a special time where we come together, in a daily gathering of our pupils and staff to worship, learn and reflect on a Christian value or theme with a Christian focus. As a Church of England school, we base our collective time together on the teachings of Christ and Anglican traditions. It is a time where we explore our Christian Vision, Ethos and school values, we reflect on them and link these to the teachings of the bible. We aim to be inclusive to individual faith, no faith and the beliefs of all members of our school and our wider community. At the heart of our Collective Worship we have,

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Jesus said, "I came to give life – life in all its fullness."*

The Peterborough Diocese states,

'Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of a school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can;

- *Share common aims and values*
- *Celebrate achievement and special times*
- *Explore together the world in which we live*
- *Develop a community spirit.'*

Aims for Collective Worship

We believe the aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children and school community to worship God together
- To enable the children and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable the children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

We aim to be ***Inclusive, Invitational and Inspirational*** in our approach.

In *developing inclusive, invitational and inspiring* Collective Worship, we must evaluate the extent to which we offer:

- Opportunity offered to all grow spiritually through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Appreciate Christians worship in different ways such as through music, silence, story, drama, prayer, reflection, Anglican Liturgy and traditions, festivals and Eucharist (Communion)

At WFPS, we keep these two principles in mind.

Collective worship should provide:

- the experience of being a part of a caring community
- the opportunity for celebration, thanksgiving and sharing emotional experiences and time to share successes and failures in personal, school and community life

The act of worship should:

- allow a time of reflection on the fundamental questions of life, and focus attention away from the concerns of the moment to those things which are of eternal concern to human beings
- enable pupils to experience 'spirituality' by enabling them to develop a worshipful attitude as demonstrated by feelings such as awe and wonder, feelings of elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, reverence and trepidation and of being uplifted

Organisation of Worship at WFPS

Content

Long term planning – We plan our worship themes over a three-year cycle and include our school Caterpillar Values to link to these themes. We regularly review our themes and have the flexibility to adapt them to suit the needs of the school and the needs of our community, both near and far. St Peter's church play an important part in planning this with a focus on the church calendar.

Medium term planning – A timetable is created to show who will lead the worship and where. St Peter's church leads worship on a Tuesday and on Wednesdays, we regularly have class worships where the classes lead the worship. We organise visitors to come in on Thursdays from CSALT (The Christian School Assembly Link Team from Spencer Bridge Road Gospel Hall), The Lighthouse Trust, charities who we support and so on. We also provide opportunities for the children, particularly the Worship Ambassadors, to choose themes that are important to them. On a Friday, we welcome parents to attend our Celebration worship where we acknowledge and reward children for their achievements.

Short-term Planning – The Senior Management team and teachers lead our worship. Each worship is planned based upon the main elements below. If children are leading it, the teacher helps in the coordination of this.

(See Appendix 1)

We strive to use a variety of presentation methods to engage the students and evoke a response. Ideas we try to include are:

- **silence:** stilling, time for reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer
- **the spoken word:** through story, current news items, poetry, personal experiences and anecdotes, interviews, discussion, readings from religious and non-religious texts, thoughts for today quotations, prayers, visualisation etc
- **music:** hymns, pop songs, folk songs, classical music etc
- **visual features:** art, posters, photographs, artefacts both religious and non-religious, toys, use of digital presentations, video recordings, slides etc
- **performance:** dance, drama, improvisation, stunts, puppets etc
- **visitors:** focussing their talks on inspirational human qualities such as courage, the ability to forgive, perseverance, bringing happiness or relief to others

(See Appendix 2)

Community

We welcome parents, carers and governors to class worships, celebration worships and other services in school such as Christingle. We also welcome them to services at St Peter's church, such as the Easter service, Harvest, Christmas, the Leavers Service and so on.

Collective worship with our community is a very special time. It is a time to come together and reflect on our shared values and issues affecting our world.

Resources

Books – Roots and Fruits for KS1 and KS2 and Jack in the Box with puppets for Early Years, all by Imaginor

Visiting Speakers – St Peter's Church, CSALT, The Lighthouse Trust

<https://www.imaginer.co.uk/>

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>

<http://learn.christianaid.org.uk/>

<http://www.fischy.com/>

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk>

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

www.picture-news.co.uk

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

We keep a simple record of the themes covered and the content of each act of worship. It is the role of the RE governor/Ethos committee to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship through observation and discussion. As part of this, children are asked about their thoughts and their views are evaluated within this process. They are asked whether the acts of worship are varied, engaging and inclusive to them. This governor liaises with the head teacher and RE coordinator before reporting to governors on Collective Worship.

The structure of 'gathering – engaging – responding – sending' is a useful tool to help us think about this at WFPS and strive to improve it as it evolves.

Collective worship is part of the on-going development of our vision to 'Value all God's Children' and is evident in these documents which are held centrally.

- The School Improvement Plan
- RE Subject Leader's Development plan
- (See Appendix 3)

The Legal Requirement for Collective Worship

Right of Withdrawal

As a VA school we expect all children to attend worship, and we discuss this with parents at the time of admission. 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. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

(See Appendix 4)

Arrangements for review

Committee/Person(s) Responsible: **Ethos Committee and TLPO Committee**

Distribution: **Governors/staff**

Policy first written by Governors' C & L Committee and adopted at Full Governing Body meeting June 2005.

Document Reviews

Version	C & L	Adopted Full Govs	Comments	Initial
1.0	Dec 2000	June 2005		SH
2.0	March 2006	April 2006		SH
3.0		Mar 2007		SH
4.0	Nov 2009	03/12/09		SH
5.0	May 2012	11/07/12		SH
6.0	Nov 2016	Dec 2016		JR
7.0	July 19	Jan 20		MV

Appendix 1
Themes for Collective Worship

	Year 1 - 2019/20	Year 2 - 2020/21	Year 3 - 2021/22
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1	Harvest Community - 1	Harvest Conscientious/ Perseverance	Harvest Generosity
Term 2	Advent/Christmas Peace	Christmas Joy	Christmas Thankfulness
Term 3	Communication -1	Creativity	Courteous/Respect
Term 4	Easter Stories Courage/ Truthfulness	Holy Week /Easter Forgiveness	Easter Stories Compassion
Term 5	Pentecost Hope	Pentecost Friendship	Pentecost/Early Church Service
Term 6	Wisdom	Justice	Trust

Appendix 2

Elements we include in our Collective Worship at WFPS

- We cultivate an atmosphere that is conducive to a quiet time of reflection.
 - A picture, an object and/or music as a stimulus as the children come in.
 - A question on the screen to think about at some part of the worship.
 - A welcome and introduction.
 - The Worship Ambassadors light the candle and say the liturgy, 'Peace be with you...' and there is an invitation to respond.
 - A Christian value/story with a biblical reference – engagement.
 - Hymns/songs that are predominantly Christian or are linked directly to our school values. We use traditional and modern hymns in our worship.
 - Our Caterpillar Values are constantly referred to in our worship.
 - A time for reflection and stillness where all have a time to be still – response. Sometimes it is an image, poem or music selected to encourage you to think.
 - A prayer that is invitational in its approach.
 - Something to take away or think about in our classroom or Refection area (a thought, activity or a prayer) – sending out.
 - Children to be involved where at all possible, whether it is the children leading the worship, in responses to prayers, answers to questions or in other ways of worship.
- *These features do not have to be in this order but we feel they are important elements and can help make it inclusive, inspiring and invitational for all.*

Appendix 3

Checklist for Collective Worship and Spiritual Development

Here are some questions about Collective Worship and spiritual development that could form the basis of a discussion amongst governors, the Head teacher and any other members of staff involved in organising Collective Worship.

- Do we keep any records of acts of Collective Worship?
- How is the Collective Worship organised? (Where, when, who, what?)
- Are most acts of Collective Worship 'broadly Christian'?
- How do we distinguish between Collective Worship and assembly?
- Do we know what we mean by *collective* as opposed to *corporate* worship?
- Do we have policies on Collective Worship and spiritual development? How do they reflect the aims, ethos and (religious) character of the school?
- Do we know what we mean by spiritual development?
- How does the act of Collective Worship contribute to pupils' *spiritual* (as well as their moral, social and cultural) development?
- Is parents' right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship included in the school prospectus?
- Why do parents have such a right and what is the school's response to parental requests to withdraw children from Collective Worship?
- How are pupils and parents involved in the Collective Worship programme?
- Are there pupils in the school who belong to religious communities for whom an alternative to 'broadly Christian' Collective Worship should be made available?
- How do we know if our provision of Collective Worship is successful?
- How can we improve Collective Worship further?

Appendix 4

The Legal Requirement for Collective Worship

1. All maintained schools and Academies, whether or not they have a religious character, are required to have daily acts of Collective Worship and to teach religious education as part of their curriculum. Schools with a religious character provide denominational Collective Worship in line with their foundation and are not subject to the requirement to provide 'wholly or mainly broadly Christian' acts of Collective Worship.
2. All registered school pupils (5 - 18) are required to take part in an act of Collective Worship on each school day (unless withdrawn – see below). Pupils in special schools should take part in an act of Collective Worship as far as it is practicable.
3. Collective worship may be held at any time during the school day.
4. Separate acts of Collective Worship may be arranged for different age or school groupings.
5. Collective worship must take place on school premises, but governors of aided and religious foundation schools may, on special occasions, arrange Collective Worship elsewhere.
6. In any one term in a community or a non-religious foundation school or academy, acts of worship, should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. That is, most (or all) of the acts of worship must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any one Christian denomination.

7. Collective worship must be appropriate having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils.
8. Where worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate, the Headteacher and governors may apply to the local SACRE (and in the case of Academies will need to refer to the terms of their funding agreement), for permission to arrange worship for all or some of the pupils which is not wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
9. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship (see below).

Every school under Local Authority control must have a policy for Collective Worship that is drawn up in accordance with the law, and reflects as far as possible the consensus of views of the various stakeholders i.e. staff, governors and the community.

All Academies, in accordance with their funding agreements, must have an act of daily worship and will be inspected under Ofsted criteria, which look to make judgements about SMSC, and so Collective Worship may play a part of their decisions.

Within the legal framework, the responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the Head teacher in VC and VA schools.