



Whitewater Church of England Primary School

# Collective Worship Policy

Date: March 2022

Next Review Date: March 2023

At Whitewater Church of England Primary School, our core Christian Values are: fellowship, creativity and courage. These values are at the very heart of our school ethos and form the basis of our collective worships throughout the course of the school year. It's a key way that we realise our vision of ensuring that our school is a place which enables our children to feel love for themselves, for others and the world around them; to be brave, knowing that mistakes are expected, respected and part of learning; to understand they have the power to make a positive contribution to God's world.

Collective Worship is a very important time within our school day. It provides an opportunity for members of the school community to gather together, to learn about and reflect upon the Christian beliefs and values which bind the school together. Collective worship is part of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils helping to make them aware of what it means to be part of a community committed to serving God and caring for each other and our environment.

### **Aims**

*To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.*

*Archbishop William Temple (1881 – 1944)*

Collective worship at Whitewater provides opportunities for both pupils and staff:

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- To provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- When appropriate to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance or drama.
- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community (as are acceptable to the parish church) to lead worship.

### **Worship in our school should:**

As worship:

- At its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God
- Be distinctively Christian

- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of our school – Fellowship, creativity and courage
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being Invitational, Inclusive and inspirational
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of our local parish church.

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined on the school website
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

### **How we achieve our aims**

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 key elements of worship, in line with guidelines provided by the Diocese of Winchester and Portsmouth (see below)
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and resource programmes – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship,

- Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Making prayer a central part of worship – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupils' awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.

Across the week, collective worship is held daily. These events typically span the week as follows:

<b>Monday</b>	Whole school worship led by Executive Head of School or equivalent
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class Worship
<b>Wednesday</b>	Open the Book or Rev Shona
<b>Thursday</b>	Rev Marion leads (including at Rotherwick Church once per half term)
<b>Friday</b>	Whole school celebration worship through fellowship, creativity and courage led by Executive Head of School or equivalent

In addition, we hold a special Values Worship at the end of each term whereby we celebrate those children across the school who consistently display Fellowship, Creativity and Courage in and around school as well as taking time to reflect on and share examples of our values which have been displayed throughout the term.

The School may vary the organisation Whole School / Class / Key Stage each year or term.

Collective worship is planned so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Open the Book representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.

## **Summary of Diocesan Guidelines**

### **Central attributes of an act of worship**

We will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with the School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'four key elements' of worship:

**Gathering** Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony. This incorporates a reflective focal point such as a candle and a cross. Music is played as the children enter and three candles are lit to signify the start of collective worship representing God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- Engaging** Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content to engage all members of the school. This may be achieved through interactive drama, music, film clips or images. Focused acts of worship will be Bible based and linked to the values and themes of the term.
- Responding** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual and group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways. This may be done through shared prayer such as the Lord's Prayer, or Anglican responses.
- Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship. This is often achieved in the form of a question that pupils are encouraged to think about throughout the day and will be given the opportunity to discuss within class.

### **The centrality of prayer**

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

### **Legal status of collective worship**

All maintained schools in England are required to provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England.

### **Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

The school will respect parental requests and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors.

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

### **Review**

Reviewed: March 2022

Review Policy: March 2023