

Collective Worship Policy

Whitfield St James' CE (VC) Primary School

“In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)
The Anglican nature of the school’s foundation is recognised in school worship in ways that are appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. The Christian Year gives an annual shape to the worship and use is made of some of the richness of the Anglican tradition. The children take part in services at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest either in school, during the school day, or in a special service at St. James’ C.E. Church, Hollincross Lane..
At Whitfield St. James’ CE (VC) Primary School our collective worship is predominantly Christian but other worldwide faiths are recognised, celebrated and respected.

The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship.
Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child’s emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Objectives of Collective Worship

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At Whitfield St. James’ CE VC Primary School Church of England (Controlled) Primary School all assemblies/collective worship are based on the principles that they should be:

- Inclusive, educational and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They are seen as special times where children can feel secure, relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

Principles of Collective Worship

Collective Worship should be **inclusive**. It should be:

- Pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- It should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- It should match the needs of pupils
- It should foster a sense of community

Collective Worship should be **educational**. It should be:

- Be a learning experience
- Related to pupils own experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Collective Worship should be **spiritual**. It should be:

- Time to be still and reflect
- A special time – conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- It should include a variety of words, music and images
- It should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

Collective Worship Organisation

- Collective Worship takes place each day, either as a whole school or as a class.
- Meetings are arranged to develop a sense of occasion.
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly.
- Music is played at the start and end of the Collective Worship from a variety of sources. This may reflect the theme of the Collective Worship.
- A Christian greeting and sending begin and end each act of daily worship
- A hymn or appropriate song relevant to the theme of the day is sung and the overhead screen is used.
- Prayer is part of daily worship
- Staff who remain in the act of Collective Worship will respond to any disruptive behaviour, quietly.
- Teachers may reinforce/follow up at other times, the focus of Collective Worship in class
- We invite visitors from the parish and occasionally other visitors to lead Collective Worship
- Any children who are requested by parents to be withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised by a TA.
- Pupils are given opportunity to, and are encouraged to, take part in or lead collective worship at regular points throughout the school year.

Star-Of-The-Week Celebration Assembly takes place on a Friday, where the whole school meets to celebrate children's achievements in school.

Once a week, during collective worship, pupils take part in hymn practise. Pupils also have a weekly class collective worship in place if whole school collective worship to enable KS2 pupils to

consider more mature themes if necessary. The majority of meetings last for a period of 15-25 minutes.

Planning

Collective Worship is planned on a monthly basis to follow a theme, which promotes spiritual, cultural and moral development. Each member of staff follows the overall theme but plans independently. These themes are linked to:

- Religious events
- Christian Values For School
- Special days
- Special events in the life of the school
- Topical events in the news
- Topics being undertaken and are linked to the Calendar of Religious Festivals for the year.
- Biblical teachings

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities.

The themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

Monitoring

The governors may monitor Collective Worship through:-

- Attending Collective Worship, Celebration Assemblies and Special Days
- Evaluating children's comments through discussion
- Discussions with staff, children and parents
- Presenting an annual report to full governing body meetings

Visitors

Collective Worship is enriched by the experiences of others; the Head teacher will ensure visitors to acts of Collective Worship are made aware of this policy.

The school will maintain a Church Copyright licence to cover hymns/songs, copied or performed during acts of Collective Worship.

School Eucharist

The School currently does not hold a School Eucharist.

Written by Mrs V. Mackey, October 2018.

Date policy reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body:

Signed:

Future reviews: