



Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Last Update: 23 November 2021

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Growing happy, caring hearts and minds' 'My command is this: Love one another as I have loved you' John 15:12

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our school vision and associated GRACE values of generosity, respect, agape (love), courage and empathy, and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community (See Appendix 1: Vision & values at WRPS). 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.

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 through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar, outside events, school topics and focussed RSE weeks

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.

b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.

d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days, and using liturgical colours on the altar cloth to support this
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican: For example; Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship subject lead. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively use planning provided by the Collective worship subject lead and the use of Imaginor 'Roots and Fruits' and 'Jack in the box' (Foundation only) which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies (See Appendix 3: Safeguarding policy). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership team in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet as a whole school on Mondays and Fridays (Years 1-6). Phase collective worship takes place on a Thursday and Class worship on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (*eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT*). Our worship consists of 4 stages (Please refer to Appendix 2: 'Collective Worship at WRPS):

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example, (*with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle*)
- **Engage** – we share, for example, (*a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message*)
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, (*discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing*)
- **Send** – we share, for example, (*the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle*)

Expectations of pupils

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship. They work with their teacher during the school day to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Developing worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collective worship. The collective worship leader attends professional development as appropriate and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and to develop (See Appendix 4: Collective Worship monitoring form). We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Ethos Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS) in consultation with the Diocese of Exeter

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and of none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Approved by Teaching and Learning Committee - 23 November 2021

Next review due - November 2023