



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY **Updated November 2018**

Approved by the Governing Body: 14th March 2019
Review due: autumn term 2020

Collective Worship sits at the heart of our school life. It forms an integral part of our gatherings and provides an opportunity for all members of the school to gather together as a class, Key Stage or whole school community. We are a Church of England school and reflect the traditions of Christian beliefs through the stories of the Holy Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We also encounter and respect other religious and non-religious world views, thus providing an insight into our multi-cultural society, whilst reflecting upon our own particular cultural traditions.

Our Vision Statement promotes the development of spiritual, moral and cultural values and understanding which are achieved by working in collaboration with our church and wider community.

Acts of collective worship can include many elements, such as:

Prayer, lighting of candles, actions representing the Holy Trinity, music, songs and hymns, readings, stories, quiet / silence, reflection, celebration, video clips, drama and contemplation, art appreciation, puppet shows.

Aims of Collective Worship

In our acts of collective worship we aim to:

- create a sense of fellowship and belonging
- contribute to the religious education of all pupils
- foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
- allow reflection on fundamental questions of life
- provide opportunities for celebration and thanksgiving
- foster concern for the needs of others
- provide a time for sharing and celebrating successes
- provide the experience of being part of a caring community
- reflect upon local, national and world events, praying for those in need
- encounter other religious and non - religious world views to develop understanding and respect for others

How we achieve this

1. The daily act of worship (see APPENDIX) is based around a religious theme or moral choice based on Christian values. The theme is explored and reflected on during the collective worship. The songs are overtly Christian and the prayers, including the Lord's prayer, celebrates the Anglican tradition. Children contribute their own prayers within collective worship.
2. We have a calendar of values based themes which all staff and supporting clergy adhere to in order to approach our worship in as much depth as possible.
3. The collective worship co-ordinator organises the timetable for themes across the year; liaises with the local church fostering links between the church and the school and provides inset and advice about collective worship.
4. We have a collective worship resource file based on Christian Values and further relevant collective worship themes are accessed from the internet and supporting resources from the Diocese of Worcester (e.g Roots and Fruits, Jack in the Box)
5. Each class celebrates one of the key seasons of the church calendar and parents are invited to attend.
6. Children are involved in the worship and participate in plays, read and say their own prayers and lead songs. CREW members plan and lead an act of worship each half term (based on Jack in the Box)
7. All teaching staff attend Monday's whole school celebration worship which is led by the head teacher. They also lead an act of collective worship with their key stage and one with their class. Staff deliver their own collective worship around the collective worship themes based on Christian Values and topical subjects.
8. Other faiths are recognised during collective worship through the telling of stories from a variety of world faiths, as well as children sharing their knowledge from religious education lessons about world faith festivals. As a school we celebrate Interfaith week to share the beliefs and lifestyles of people from across the world with the aim of fostering a more empathetic understanding amongst the children.
9. Singing is central to the act of collective worship and children learn a range of songs which reflect the Anglican tradition and reinforce the variety of festivals in the Anglican calendar.
10. The Lord's Prayer closes each act of collective worship and this is preceded by a time of reflection and a short prayer concerning themes or ideas raised in the collective worship. A three wick candle is lit and the children repeat the Holy Trinity - God the Father,

God the Son and God the Holy Spirit using actions for each aspect of God.

11. Children pray during collective worship, in preparation for lunchtime and before the end of the school day.
12. We enjoy very good links with our local church 'St Philip & St James'. Our vicar is on the school's governing body and he regularly attends school events and worship marking key Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas. He also regularly leads worship based on our Christian values and seasons of the church year.
13. Church members also lead collective worship, in a range of styles (including Open the Book). They also support the children lead worship during their annual Church workshops.
14. The head teacher, RE Leader, foundation governor and the vicar liaise on the aspects of worship that will be covered based on the timetable of collective worship.
15. The school attends the local church once a term for a religious service with some of the older children contributing prayers based on the theme.
16. All children are given the opportunity to attend events at Worcester Cathedral throughout their school life e.g Voices and Visions, Pilgrim's Quest.

APPENDIX

Programme of Collective Worship

At Whittington we hold a daily act of collective worship. Worship take place in the school hall and last approximately 15 / 20 minutes. Each act of worship includes a time for reflection.

- Monday: Whole school celebration assembly taken by the Head teacher when class teachers choose children from their class to say 'well done' for pieces of work, effort and achievements. Personal achievements out of school are also celebrated e.g Sports awards.
- Tuesday: KS1 - Circle time and School Council (alternate weeks)
KS2 - Key stage assembly
- Wednesday: Whole school songs and praise
- Thursday: KS2 - Circle time & School Council (alternate weeks)
KS1 - Key stage assembly
- Friday: Whole school assembly taken by the Head teacher, Vicar, Church Members or a class.

Festival services:

These include Harvest, Christmas, Mother's Day, Easter, Pentecost and Valedictory.

The services are presented by the children and attended by parents.

Our programme of celebration is as follows:

- Harvest: Year 1
- Christmas: Year 4
- Mother's Day: Year R
- Easter: Year 3
- Pentecost: Year 5
- Values in Action Year 2
- Valedictory: Year 6

Church services:

Each term the whole school attends a service held for them in the local church. This will enable the children to maintain a link with the church and to learn how the main Christian Festivals are celebrated in church. They will also learn about the features inside a church, the role of the vicar and the work carried out by the local church in the wider community.

Each class also participates in a Church Workshop based on a particular Christian Festival or Bible story. The session includes singing, prayers, arts and crafts and concludes with a worship which includes a celebration of the theme and gives children the opportunity to share their own prayers. Creations from the workshop are used during the following Sunday service to share with the community and are then brought into school.