

Whittington Church of England Collective Worship Policy



To love, to learn, to flourish - together

School Vision

Jesus said, 'I chose you and appointed you to bear much fruit, fruit that will last.' John 15:16

We are inspired by Jesus to learn with joy and flourish in love, faith and wisdom. Together, we live and grow well, valuing and respecting our differences and sharing our God given gifts. We aspire to be courageous and responsible, caring for our world and one another today for a better tomorrow.

Policy adopted: September 2024

Policy review: September 2025

Intent

Worship in Whittington CE Primary School takes place on a daily basis and is distinctly Christian, reflecting Anglican traditions. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, to learn with joy and flourish in love, faith and wisdom, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story and explore the significance of the Holy Trinity. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, music, words and art. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths.

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective Worship is the heartbeat of our school and as such it encompasses all that we do and supports the outworking of our school vision. Therefore, Collective Worship at Whittington CE Primary School strives to follow the following principles:

- It is invitational

Acts of Collective Worship will:

- encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy
- nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer
- provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words
- provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day
- foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for caring for it
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.
- nurture an understanding of the need for social justice in our world

- It is inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith, inspired by the life of Jesus Christ. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of Collective Worship will:

- create a sense of fellowship and belonging
- recognise, respect and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local and world community
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils and adults
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community

- provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, to enable our school family to flourish spiritually.
- It is inspiring

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

 - foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world
 - allow reflection and increase awareness on fundamental questions of life
 - promote wide ownership of our Christian vision
 - foster concern for the needs of others and our world
 - enhance, complement and extend curricular work
 - provide a time for sharing the successes and failures of others
 - encounter and explore Jesus's teachings to grow in wisdom
 - include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and non-religious worldviews
 - provide opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils
 - ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to ensure that children have a clear understanding of how the teachings of Jesus impact what we do locally, nationally and globally.
- Therefore, we will ensure that:
 - a range of people are involved in leading worship, including learners
 - opportunities are offered to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship
 - the timetabling of acts of worship includes the use of the classroom, outdoor areas, the communal hall and the local church
 - worship is planned in relation to our distinctive Christian vision and associated values
 - worship is regularly evaluated by a range of members of the school community including children and governors
 - opportunities for worship / prayer are offered throughout the day eg during collective worship, creative prayer, lunchtime thanksgiving and end of day prayers

Pattern of Collective Worship

Our regular pattern of worship ensures that children experience worship from a range a different leaders and viewpoints, whilst maintaining the integrity of Anglican Liturgy.

Day	Type of Worship	Venue	Led by
Monday	Whole School worship	Hall	G Richards, Headteacher
Tuesday	Class based worship – iSing Pop. This focuses on key Christian values, the Life of Jesus and the Seasons of the church year.	Classroom	Class teacher

Wednesday	Key Stage worship	Hall	Key Stage staff, Severnside Parishes, CREW5
Thursday	Songs and Praise or Worship led by Rev'd Andy –Bible Teachings	Hall	A Byrne Rev'd Andrew Stand
Friday	Whole School Celebration worship or Church Festival worship	Hall Hall	K Leeming, Deputy Headteacher Led by each class

Termly whole school worship takes place in the Church of St Philip and St James, led by members of the Church community. Annual themes are Remembrance, Christian Aid week and a focus on our school values.

Each class also participates in a Church Workshop session based on a particular Christian Festival or Bible story and the children can explore each theme as they journey through our school. These sessions are led by the collective worship lead, staff and friends from our church.

Reception Class: Welcome to the Church family (Parents are also invited) , Year 1: Experience Harvest, Year 2: Experience Christmas

Year 3: Experience Easter, Year 4: Experience Church (Lent) , Year 5: Experience Pentecost, Year 6: Experience Eucharist

The workshop includes a focus on the church season, singing, writing prayers, arts and crafts and concludes with worship. Creations from the workshop are used during the following Sunday service and subsequently displayed in school.

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Planning
 - A half termly overview plan for worship is planned by the Collective Worship Lead and shared with SLT, staff, foundation governors, CREW and local clergy.
 - Collective Worship is planned using the church calendar and the calendars of other faiths.
 - A clear liturgy is followed for each act of Collective Worship.
 - A time of reflection is planned as part of the worship.
 - Diocesan recommended resources are used to support the planning of collective worship, i.e Roots and Fruits, iSing Pop and Big Start Assemblies.
- Monitoring and Evaluation
 - The effectiveness of Collective Worship is monitored within our regular termly monitoring cycle.
 - Collective Worship is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Collective Worship Lead, Governors and CREW to ensure that Collective Worship remains invitational, inclusive and inspiring.
 - All monitoring for Collective Worship is completed on a monitoring log which is kept by the Collective Worship Leader. This includes:
 - Pupil voice interviews/impact sheets
 - Staff voice interviews
 - Collective worship observation sheets

- At the end of each term we evaluate the successes of Collective Worship with the pupils to then make improvements for the next term.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body should:
 - provide a statement within the school prospectus which makes clear that the aims of Collective Worship within the school are based on its Christian foundation and includes parents' legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship
 - ensure that the school fulfills its legal responsibility for Collective Worship
 - in conjunction with the Headteacher, monitor the effectiveness of Collective Worship within the school and make recommendations for its development in accordance with the SIAMS Schedule.
- The Headteacher / Collective Worship Lead:
 - co-ordinate timetabling / themes across the year(s) into long, medium and short-term planning, in conjunction with the school and church community
 - ensure that the school prospectus, welcome / induction pack and website have clear statements about the school's ethos for Collective Worship, (including the right of withdrawal)
 - ensure that there is a balance of regular and one-off visitors during the year, and being a point of contact for those visitors so that they understand their contribution to the worship life of the school
 - organise the evaluation of Collective Worship
 - be a part of the SIAMS inspection process
 - support other members of staff
 - know where to go for good resources to support worship
 - liaise with the music leader to ensure that music used as part of school worship fits the themes and school ethos, and is appropriate for use in school worship
 - lead staff meetings that have a focus on Collective Worship
 - be responsible for leading school worship teams, or prayer & reflection spaces.
- The Pupil Worship Team should:
 - plan and lead Collective Worship
 - suggest new ideas for Collective Worship
 - contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship in the school
 - promoting Collective Worship within the school
- Staff should:
 - support the crucial role that Collective Worship plays within the school
 - plan and lead Collective Worship when required
 - provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on worship at other times during the week.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This support is provided by Diocese of Worcester Education Team and in school training led by the Collective worship leader. Training needs for staff may be identified through regular subject leader audits as well as performance management cycles. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead Collective Worship.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In *Whittington CE Primary School* there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view.

On occasion, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- the practical implications of withdrawal
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply (*this means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily Collective Worship.*)

Review

This policy will be subject to the normal cycle of policy review and will be reviewed and ratified by the Governing Body every 3 years. Furthermore, there may be occasions where this policy is reviewed outside the normal review cycle, including but not limited to:

- a change in the SIAMS Schedule for Inspections
- a change in legal position framework for Collective Worship.