

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY - POLICY STATEMENT**

At Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

Inspire Believe Achieve

‘Inspiring children to be the best they can be’

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

### Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

*John 13:34-35*

“...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole

school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Executive Headteacher or Head of School. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday - Whole school worship led by the Head of School
- Tuesday – Whole school worship led by KS1 lead.
- Wednesday – Whole school worship led by Executive Head Teacher.
- Thursday - Whole school worship led by KS2 lead.
- Friday – Celebration worship led by Head of School.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the academy regularly to lead

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

### Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our values focus, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The title of this piece of music is displayed for the children to see throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures. The candle on the altar table is lit and the worship begins, sometimes with the children singing a hymn. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have planned themes for their acts of collective worship on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The format is the same as whole school worship.

The celebration/class collective worship on Friday celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, staff choose members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. This takes place after the children have completed their collective worship have sung the hymn and the candles have been lit.

### Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, school prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Executive Head Teacher or Head of School, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed about on the altar table with the church colours displayed on the altar table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers lead classes in prayers at the end of the school day.

The school has a Prayer display in the main corridor of the school. Each class take turns to write prayers for this board over the school year.

Sometimes these are related to the Value for the Month, Christian festivals or on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

### Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

### Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded there. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

### Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Mary's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

### Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E./collective worship for religious reasons at the wish of their parents. The Head of School will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

### Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Date of Review	Reviewed By	Amendments Made
	ILB	New Replacement Policy