LINCOLN ANGLICAN ACADEMY TRUST
DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Collective Worship Policy

Weston St Mary
CE Primary School

Reviewed by:	Date:	Changes made:
AC	March 25	Record keeping paragraph updated Reference to prayer board removed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion paragraph added
Abbie Muir and the AC	27.02.2023	Mission statement, vision and values updated Added aims and intent Updated organisation Added Worship Council Updated Right to Withdraw

At Weston St March 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:

"I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." *Philippians 4:13*

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.

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 head of school or executive head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and takingpart in worship.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, respect, perseverance, compassion, hope and courage as our school values.
We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.
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.

Aims and Intent

The aim of Collective Worship in our school is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.
- to provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- to encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

To be meaningful for pupils, Collective Worship enables them to reflect on:

- what it means to be a human being
- questions of meaning, purpose and value
- the best that human beings can be - inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated through their actions, lives and qualities. Examples will come from religious and nonreligious sources.
- personal beliefs and values The Collective Worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy. We will strive to ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Collective Worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space. Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances

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 or member of teaching staff
- Tuesday – Whole school worship led by the Head of School or member of teaching staff
- Wednesday – Class worship led by pupils or teaching staff
- Thursday – Whole school worship led by clergy and a member of teaching staff
- Friday - Whole school celebration assembly

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

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for collective worship reflect our values focus, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. 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. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with reflection and 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.

The celebration 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 prayer 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 or end of worship, 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 represented by the alter cloth.

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.

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

Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship. Pupils, SLT, the Collective Worship lead and Governors will be involved in evaluating collective worship in order to enhance this further.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At Weston St Mary Primary School, diversity is celebrated, equity is ensured and inclusion is a fundamental principle. A weekly focus on a DEI theme will be represented in collective worship to explore global issues and develop children's understanding of diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Weston St Mary Church of England Primary School ensures that appropriate visitsare 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 experiencesand 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.

Worship Council

The school has a group of pupils who have volunteered to be part of a Worship Council. The group meets regularly with the R.E coordinator/Head of School to give their input on Collective Worship themes, write and share prayers with the school, gather pupil feedback on Collective Worship and monitor assemblies.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. Staff may request withdrawal from Collective Worship by contacting the Headteacher.

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.