



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

At Willaston Church of England Primary School we believe that Collective Worship plays an essential integral part in the life of our school. It makes an invaluable, embedded contribution to the ethos and values of the school and to its distinctive Christian character.

Values

Respect – through our understanding of the Bible and teachings of Jesus, we follow his example and demonstrate respect in our relationships with the whole school community.

Compassion – understanding how Jesus showed compassion and charity to others, no matter who they were, and endeavouring to do the same.

Creation – learning about God's creation and showing reverence and gratitude for being custodians of our planet and everything on it.

Perseverance – knowing that God is by our side when we face challenges and adversity, giving us faith and determination.

Service – having Jesus as our role model and using our knowledge and understanding to help others in our local community and beyond.

Legal Requirements

The arrangements for Collective Worship are in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, section 70 and schedule 20 as summarised below:

- Arrangements for Collective Worship are the responsibility of the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility;
- Acts of Worship must adhere to 'the faith and practice of the Church of England' in accordance with the original foundation;
- An act of Collective Worship must be provided for all pupils every day. This can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping;
- All parents must be advised of their right to withdraw their child from the act of Worship. Staff also have the right to withdraw from worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

The central aims of Collective Worship at Willaston CE Primary School are to:

- Encourage pupils to learn more about the Christian faith and to become familiar with a variety of worship in the Anglican tradition, according to their developmental stage;
- Promote a sense of occasion allowing everyone to celebrate the whole life of the school in the presence of God and reflect upon its common ethos and Christian values;
- Provide opportunities to engage and address God directly;
- Make an effective contribution to every child's search for meaning and their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Provide an atmosphere for personal reflection, through experiences of stillness, peace, awe, mystery, reverence and belonging;
- Allow pupils to respond individually and to respect their personal integrity, beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes;
- Give children opportunities to participate in acts of Worship to promote self-confidence and self-esteem;
- Nurture a concern for the wider world through considering the needs of others and foster charitable works;
- To provide opportunities for children to explore collective worship when learning outside the classroom.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- Exploration of a theme or focus
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Pupil participation
- Interfaith and cultural understanding

The pattern of worship each week is as follows:-

Monday

Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or visiting Minister.

Tuesday

Whole school worship led by Rev. S. Bazely.

Wednesday

A year group sharing assembly to the whole school focusing on a different school value each week.

Thursday

Collective worship in classrooms – social action focus.

Friday

Whole school praise assembly led by the Deputy Headteacher.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis. Monday worship often includes a visit from ministers of local Churches, The Wirral Christian Centre, Bromborough Gospel Hall, one Methodist Church, Open the Book and local charities. Worship follows a half-termly rolling programme based on the school values of respect, compassion, creation, perseverance and service. Each collective worship session offers time to pause for thought and reflection. This might be a discussion of the words in the hymns or the emotions that the music produces. It includes an opportunity to worship God either in a time of reflection or in prayer. Friday worship provides an opportunity for the whole school to meet and celebrate children's work and achievements and the 'good deeds' they have carried out.

We have strong links with **Christ Church, Willaston** and Reverend Bazely is a familiar face at school. We regularly visit Church as part of worship or our RE lessons. We also enjoy celebrating all Christian festivals throughout the year in school and at Church.

The Chill Tank located at the end of the infant corridor provides a space for reflection. Each classroom has a designated area in which children are able to reflect and consider their beliefs.

A prayer basket is located in the hall and provides opportunities for children to contribute to prayer.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The whole school ethos and programme of Collective Worship enriches spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship provides opportunities for the whole school community to:

- gain a sense of self-knowledge, vision or inspiration; a sense of awe and wonder of God's creation;
- appreciate the values and attitudes upheld by the local and wider community within the British context;
- be encouraged to keep/maintain/develop a quest for truth and meaning;
- observe and encounter varieties of expressions of belief and commitment.

Each class also has the opportunity to work on a social action project that benefits either our school or wider community, giving children the opportunity to find their voice and use it to advocate for change.

We regularly support local charities such as the local foodbank, Claire House hospice and Santa for a Senior. During Covid-19 pandemic, the children and parents raised funds remotely for the survival of Chester Zoo. We regularly fundraise for national charities and events such as Children in Need, Comic Relief and Christian Aid.

Record Keeping

We keep records of all acts of Worship. The Headteacher, Rev. Bazely, staff and visitors make a record of all whole school acts of Worship in The Collective Worship/Assembly Book. Children are invited to reflect on the Collective Worship by recording their thoughts or feelings in the book.

Review

Collective Worship is monitored regularly by the Staff and Governors. The programme of Collective Worship is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher, Governors and staff and adjustments are made as necessary.

Approved by Governors, October 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. E. Muddoch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Signed Chair of Governors