



**West Park
Church of England
Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy

‘Let your light shine’ Matthew 5

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Collective Worship Policy

Independence Teamwork Creativity Faith

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our Church of England school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.)

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

At West Park Church of England School responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the head teacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds or none.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship at West Park Church of England School is more than just a legal requirement. Collective Worship is an integral part of school life and central to the Church of England tradition. As a Church of England community we endeavour to support the pupils, staff and families in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, they will gain insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for pupils, staff and families:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God
- to reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- to explore their own beliefs and those of others

- to respond to and celebrate life
- to experience a sense of belonging and to develop community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values
- to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school
- to consider the needs of others
- to develop the skills of:
 - Reverence
 - Contemplation
 - Reflection
 - Interpretation
 - Empathy
 - Stillness
 - Prayer
 - Silence
- to enrich religious experience
- to grow in liturgical understanding
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to develop a sense of awe, wonder and inspiration in the person of Christ.

Right of Withdrawal

All children attend collective worship. 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. When parents request that their child be withdrawn from religious education, they will be asked to meet the head teacher to clarify the beliefs and practices from which they wish their child to be excluded. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship (section 385/356 Education Acts 1966).

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will provide opportunities to:

- give glory and honour, praise and thanks to God
- be a quality experience, fundamental to the life of the school and its Church of England character
- give children positive liturgical experiences based on sound educational, pastoral and liturgical principles that are appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds
- be inclusive in response to the needs of all pupils
- be invitational and reinforce the sense of community in our school and enable the sharing of whole school values
- celebrate the various achievements of the community
- appreciate and develop positive values, with special emphasis on our core school values
- have breadth and balance
- be planned and coordinated appropriately and will be evaluated and reviewed regularly through reviewing worship diaries and worship leaders feedback

Celebrations will:

- be focussed and appropriately paced
- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Please see appendix 1 to see how Collective Worship is organised within West Park Church of England School

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- to be invitational and inclusive
- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, "Values for Life", PSHE, significant world dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be central in the majority of acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship
- to create the right atmosphere for worship to ensure that pupils respond in a positive and practical way
- to allow pupils to reflect on, affirm and celebrate shared values and aspirations
- considering the setting and rearranging the way the children are seated so that the intimacy of the environment is maximised. It will be quite distinct from other activities and have a focal point for worship with symbols, pictures and artefacts

The format for Collective Worship for our school will be:

- ❖ **Gather and focus** – how we come together, the setting, the environment (quiet reflective music, lighted candles, icons etc.)
- ❖ **Proclaim** – every liturgy will centre around at least one text from the Bible.
- ❖ **Respond** – the response to the Word may lead into a time of action, communal prayer or questioning of meaning. The action may vary but the intention is that our learning is evident in the way we conduct ourselves and treat others
- ❖ **Go Forth** – Giving the children something to hold on to from the experience of the liturgy that they can take into their daily lives and consider their beliefs

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded:

- on a whole school planner to keep a note of the theme and leader
- through displays, collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections, photographs and whole school floorbook.
- These plans are shared each term with governors and our church wardens at St Mary's church

Monitoring and Evaluation

The planning of the school's provision of worship will be monitored each term by the co-ordinator.

Please see appendix 2 to see a timetable for when Collective Worship is monitored and evaluated within West Park Church of England School

Eucharist

Communion in school will highlight a special occasion. Communion services will be carefully planned in consultation with Father Keith to ensure the content is appropriate. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore, opportunities for children to participate will be maximised. (This is currently not offered by St. Mary's clergy).

Daily Prayers

A list of prayers that children are expected to know and be familiar with by the end of each year group has been compiled.

Please see appendix 3 for a list of these prayers

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Head teacher is ultimately responsible for Collective Worship within our school.

- to formulate a written policy for Collective worship, involving staff, parents, pupils and governors
- to ensure that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school action plan and is linked with the R.E. and School Development Plan
- to ensure that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils
- to ensure that Collective Worship takes account of the religious education needs of all who share in it
- to organise themes for Worship
- to assist the governors in carrying out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

With regard to planning, recording, monitoring and evaluating

- to maintain and develop effective procedures and documentation
- to observe, on occasions, acts of Collective Worship
- to inform the Governors of standards and developments in Collective Worship

With regard to communication

- to communicate to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- to report to and consult with the governors regarding areas of concern and development
- to act as consultant to colleagues
- to encourage positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- to inform newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship

- to communicate with parents, governors and the parish community
- to liaise with Father Keith and Foundation Governors
- to liaise with the Diocesan RE Centre and Advisor

With regard to professional development/ongoing formation

- to lead and organise in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- to attend appropriate in-service courses and report back
- to keep up to date by personal reading and liaison with colleagues in other schools

With regard to resources

- to evaluate existing resources
- to develop the resources available for Collective Worship including presentations, resources, planning for worship both in halls and weekly class worship
- to budget efficiently
- liaise with music lead
- resource active displays in halls and entrance areas as well as termly prayer spaces.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed every year. The Foundation Governors, in particular, will play a most important role.

Appendix 1

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP WEEKLY TIMETABLE AND PROVISION

Aims	Place	Visual focus	Atmosphere	Music/Hymns	Pupil involvement	Staff involvement	Pupil response	Prayer/s
To share and spread Gospel messages	School Halls	Bible Candle/s Cloth in Liturgical colour Display with Gospel related artefacts Scripture quotations	Reverent Respectful Reflective Questioning	Related to Gospel- Please see Termly Planner	Hymns Prayer responses Reflection	Leader: Splash Open the Book Gospel Reading Leading prayers Asking challenging questions 1 x term	Reflect on Gospel Wonder Be curious Answer Questions	Prepared Prayers linked to the Gospel
To reaffirm, share and develop the values of our school	School Halls	Bible quote	Quiet Reflective	Hymn relating to the bible reading	Reflection	Headteacher/ Deputy Head/ Assistant Head Mondays	Guided reflection on Christian values	Related to the current Value
To strengthen and enrich the 'Values for life' value at an appropriate class level emphasise the teachings and Practices of the Church	Individual classrooms	Display with related artefacts, quote from current Value, Bible	Reverent Respectful Reflective Questioning	Key Stage related-selected by lead Class Teacher	Consider beliefs and Practices Pose questions Sharing of experiences	Leader : individual Class Teachers Lead Reading linked with Values Tuesdays	Read age-related Bible	Children's prayers linked to the current value

To gather as one class and celebrate and learn more about our current value	Classroom	Story from Kindness Bible School Values, Reflection space	Communal Sharing Celebration	Class choice	Celebration	Worship lead select Bible story Class teacher talk about individual living the value	Celebrate and affirm value	School Prayer
To support and bolster the Learning Intentions in the PSHE programmes To highlight our daily roles in Giving and charitable work/s	School Halls	Celebration Assembly: Power point presentation/ posters Birthdays Star Awards	Communal Sharing Giving Silence	Pupil choice- class by class	Choice of hymns Birthdays Prayers	Leader : Phase leader/ Year Lead Collective Worship	Talk about relationships Develop an empathy for others Consider moral issues	Individual, spontaneous prayers from children or celebration prayer
To celebrate and worship through song	School Halls	Singing Worship	Communal sharing song/worship	Related to value or focus	Singing	Class teachers on rotation	Learn traditional and new hymns & songs as part of worship	Shared prayer

***All Acts of Collective Worship include Prayer and Music/Hymns**

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL YEAR

MONTH	CELEBRATION	AIMS	LEADER/ COORDINATOR	CONTENT	PLACE	OTHERS INVOLVED/INVITED
September	New School Year	Develop positive attitudes and a sense of belonging Share our school values and ethos	Fr Keith Head Teacher	Prayers for the new school year	Hall	Our school community
	Harvest Festival	Develop an understanding the tradition of Harvest Festival Share what we have with those less fortunate and highlight our roles in giving and charitable work/s	Fr Keith Headteacher SLT	Harvest festival display Liturgy	Hall	Parish, family and friends
December	Christingle	To celebrate Jesus being the light of the world and the gifts we receive as a result of this	Fr Keith Headteacher SLT	Making Christingles Prayer Spaces linked to Christmas Story	Church	Parish, family and friends
January	Epiphany	Celebrate the Epiphany Welcome back in the new term	Head Teacher	Liturgy	Hall	Our school community
March	Spirituality week	Clarify the meaning and events of Holy Week and explore our own spirituality	Headteacher Individual class teachers	Each day linked to event Daily collective worship Lessons linked to Holy week events Prayer Spaces	School	Parish, family and friends
April	The Resurrection of the Lord	To celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Welcome back in the new term	Head Teacher SLT	Prayers Spaces	Hall	Our school community
July	Leavers' Service	Share emotions and consider our friends as some of them leave our school family	Fr Keith Year 6 teachers	Presentations by year 6 children	St Mary's Church School Field	Staff, family and friends

***All Acts of Collective Worship include Prayer and Music/Hymns**

Appendix 2

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP MONITORING AND EVALUATION TIMETABLE

<u>AUTUMN</u> <u>Term 1 & 2</u>	<u>SPRING</u> <u>Term 3 & 4</u>	<u>SUMMER</u> <u>Term 5 & 6</u>
Monitoring of Worship Diaries Review of resources Collect pupil feedback in half-termly Worship Leaders Evaluation of acts of collective worship by Governors throughout year	Monitoring of RE Books and Worship Diaries Collect pupil feedback in half-termly Worship Leaders Evaluation of acts of collective worship by Governors throughout year	Monitoring of Pupil views through Pupils' questionnaire Evaluation of acts of collective worship by Governors throughout year Collect pupil feedback in half-termly Worship Leaders Reviewing the planning cycle for any amendments

Appendix 3

KEY STAGE 1

- School Prayer
- Responses – Peace be with you And also with you

KEY STAGE 2

- As above
- The Lord's Prayer
- Celebration Prayer