

West Wittering Parochial C.E. Primary School

Enjoy, Achieve, Aspire



Collective Worship Policy

Date created: January 2022

To be reviewed: January 2025

Signed (Chair of Governors) *Lesley C. Henderson*

We are a community committed to providing learning opportunities for all within a framework of Christian values and practice. We achieve this through providing a broad, rich, and engaging curriculum that has our school values of 'enjoy, achieve and aspire' deeply rooted within them. West Wittering Parochial C.E. Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share and demonstrate this commitment in every aspect of their work.

Context

West Wittering Parochial Primary school is a small, rural primary school, serving children in the age range of 4 – 11years old. We offer a daily act of collective worship in line with the guidance from the Chichester Diocese.

West Wittering Parochial Primary school recognises and values the religious backgrounds and non-religious backgrounds of each of our pupils. We intend to be sensitive to the home background of all and therefore work to ensure that Collective Worship is accessible to all pupils and teachers of any religious persuasion or none whilst being based in Christian values.

We have a strong understanding of how Collective Worship can play a leading role in pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. At West Wittering Parochial Primary school, we know how relationships with members of local communities and local faith communities can enrich pupils' experiences in Collective Worship and we strive to cultivate and maintain these relationships through regular participation both in our local church, but also in weekly worships being led by local clergy.

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of '**Enjoy, achieve and aspire... be the best that you can be.**' and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff, governors and visiting clergy. Special times of the year are celebrated and acts of worship take place in our local church at these times. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Planning our Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes, and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a variety of activities such as drama and role play, alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. We use the structure of 'Gathering, Engaging, Responding & Sending' when planning our worships and our Christian Values and the order in which we cover these in worship is based around the creative collective worship resource 'Roots and Fruits'. This enables us to have a clearly mapped thematic approach to worship each half term, that is creative and progressive and the themes are explored across the week at different levels.

We use the idea of 'Five finger prayer' to help focus us on who our prayers are for and provide an outdoor prayer space to allow children to engage with this at a time that suits them. Pupils who prefer

not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection, and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Collective Worship at West Wittering Parochial School is planned to:

- foster a sense of belonging and ‘togetherness’
- be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. It aims to engage all learners and enable them to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- incorporate Biblical material and Christian teaching and explores and relates to our school’s core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey, and have an understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”
- provide opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, whether local, national or global

Collective worship is designed to be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings; in the school hall, classrooms, in our local church and on occasions outside.

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally.

Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

In a normal week, the pattern of collective worship is as follows.

Monday	Headteacher	Setting the theme and reflection for the week
Tuesday	Member of teaching staff or Pupils	Applying the theme of the week to their lives
Wednesday	Our church rector	Global view
Thursday	Music leader	Singing Praise
Friday	Headteacher or other teacher	Celebration of this week’s achievements in our learner tools and core Christian values, as well as engaging with reflection time
	Class Teacher & children	Reflection time responding to the thoughts and ideas led in Monday’s worship

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Where opportunity presents, we warmly welcome leaders from different Christian denomination and from other faiths to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who align with these.

Legal requirements

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, inspiring and reflective in nature and is never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Collective Worship and School Ethos Link Governor: Jonathan Swindells

Named RE subject leader: Lisa Willson

Headteacher: Nick Matthews