



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: March 2016

Next review: March 2018

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body

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What is Collective Worship?

DFE Circular 1/94, section 50 says:

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.”

Our Collective Worship at West Tytherley CE Primary School

Mission Statement

The Governors commit themselves to ensure that West Tytherley C.E. Primary School will serve the children by providing the best it can offer to encourage each child to fulfil their spiritual, moral, academic, social, emotional, physical and cultural potential in a Christian caring community.

Worship is mindful of the provisions of the Trust Deed in that it is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

Aims at West Tytherley CE Primary

1. Collective worship aims to promote moral values, which are Christian but can also apply to other faiths and to non-believers.
2. Collective worship aims to provide opportunities for pupils to learn from stories, from the experiences of others, and through provision of time for pupils to reflect.
3. Stories may be from the Bible, from other religions, about admirable people in history or in current times, and from other secular sources but the choice will be aimed at developing pupil's moral understanding.
4. Collective worship aims to use sources which inform children of their cultural heritage. As a broadly Christian country with a large majority of white British children in school, we aim to ensure that children learn about their Christian heritage.
5. Collective worship aims to allow pupils the opportunity to gain insight into the nature of "faith" and "belief" and "spirituality" and the impact that it can have on the lives of believers.
6. At no time will children be subject to indoctrination during collective worship. Phrases such as Christians believe ... or Muslims believe ... will be used. Pupils will be asked to think and to reflect on their own. Where specific prayers are said, pupils will be asked to listen carefully and think about what is being said and say "Amen" at the end if they agree.
7. Dedicated collective worship times may be short but must allow time for reflection and be a valuable and important part of the school day.
8. Collective worship and times for reflection or prayer, will be signalled by the lighting of a candle or by the use of one of the other suggested symbols.
9. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from attendance at religious worship in the school. It would be helpful if parents would consult with the Headteacher before making a final decision.

Currently arrangements are as follows:-

A variety of opportunities for collective worship are provided to meet the needs of a wide range of learners from 4 – 11 years old. Sometimes collective worship is a stand alone session and sometimes it is part of an assembly. Where it is part of a whole school assembly the lighting of a candle, or alternative, indicates when the collective worship element of the assembly is about to take place. This will be at the end of the assembly.

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| <p>Monday Whole school assembly led by the Vicar</p> | <p>Each week a new theme is introduced to the children and this often links in with one of the school key values: Care, Trust, Respect and Responsibility. The themes are planned by the Vicar in consultation with the SLT. Sometimes the theme relates to SEAL themes or religious celebration days (e.g. St. Georges Day).</p> <p>This assembly is usually led by the Vicar, who will discuss the theme through an activity or short story. This will end with a time for a summary of aims and reflection. This may relate to giving thanks and to thinking about how each individual will try to do their best to achieve our whole school aims for the term.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday Whole school assembly led by the Head</p> | <p>This assembly is led by the Headteacher, who will discuss the theme through an activity or short story. This will end with a time for a summary of aims and reflection. This may relate to giving thanks and to thinking about how each individual will try to do their best to achieve our whole school aims for the term.</p> <p>Any announcements will be made either side of the act of worship.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday Class collective worship led by teacher</p> | <p>These may be stimulated by the RE or SEAL work being done in class or relate to an issue in class, where a suitable story from the Bible, or from another source, may help children to understand how to move forward. Over time, it would be expected that there would be a balance in sources to reflect all of these areas.</p> <p>On some occasions collective worship may involve listening to a poem or a prayer, or singing a hymn and reflecting on this.</p> <p>Where more than collective worship takes place, the teacher will ensure that the collective worship ends the session and how a clear indication can be given.</p> |
| <p>Thursday Whole school assembly led by the Deputy Head</p> | <p>This assembly is led by the Deputy Headteacher, who will discuss the theme through an activity or short story. This will end with a time for a summary of aims and reflection. This may relate to giving thanks and to thinking about how each individual will try to do their best to achieve our whole school aims for the term.</p> |
| <p>Friday Whole school assembly led by Head or Deputy</p> | <p>Class Sharing assemblies – These focus on the recent learning of the class or on a theme chosen by the class. Parents are invited. At the end of the assembly the Collective worship aspect will be signalled and the class will introduce the aspect for reflection or for prayer.</p> <p>Hymn practice – at the end of the session an aspect of one of the hymns will be selected as a focus for reflection or prayer. A candle will be lit to identify this part of the assembly.</p> <p>Celebration awards assembly – these take place usually weekly. At the end, the collective worship element will focus on the talents, values and abilities of human kind and an area for greater thought and reflection will be chosen for collective worship.</p> |

This policy reflects current practice at West Tytherley CE Primary School and will be subject to a bi-annual review.