

**“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”  
Psalm 150 v6**

This policy represents the school’s arrangements for Collective Worship as approved by the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and local clergy.

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At Whittle-le-Woods Church of England Primary School Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

### **Ethos Statement**

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and Diocesan level.

Whittle-le-Woods School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

### **The Trust Deed of the School**

Collective Worship at Whittle-le-Woods Church of England School is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as well as by the Trust Deed of the school. The Collective Worship provided is in accordance with the Trust Deed and is wholly Christian.

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deed. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world wide Christian Church.

Collective Worship in our school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of the pupils.

The provision of Collective Worship confirms to the Blackburn Diocesan Guidelines/Policy.

### **Daily Worship**

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of the children’s spiritual education. As a school we therefore resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard.

Daily Collective Worship is provided for every pupil. This worship takes place in various groupings such as whole school, separate key stage groups or in class groups. Collective Worship can take place at any time during the school day although the first part of the morning is the most usual time for Worship to take place.

Through Collective Worship pupils are introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and are helped to explore them. These include:

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- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as part of God's creation and, though sinful, able to receive the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life.
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's potential for relationship with God
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church's year

## **Aims for Collective Worship**

At Whittle-le-Woods Collective Worship aims to:

- Enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship so that those with a religious commitment may have their experience of worship deepened and broadened and so that the uncommitted may begin to feel for themselves something of what it means for others to worship
- Enable pupils to approach "the threshold of worship" by instilling in them a "worshipful attitude" i.e. an attitude characterised by feelings such as awe and wonder, being uplifted, elation, deep appreciation, gratitude, respect, reverence and trepidation
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- Heighten pupils awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and of the beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions
- Make explicit and celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, for the school and for the wider community
- Develop a sense of community in school, and of being part of a wider community
- Celebrate achievements and share special concerns in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community
- Develop links with St. John's Church

- Increase aesthetic awareness and to enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief
- Contribute to the spiritual development of pupils
- Develop children as spiritual leaders

Collective Worship enables the whole school community to:

**EXPLORE those questions which are important to everyone**

- a relationship with God, the teachings of the Bible, prayer, the value of truth, love, goodness etc
- what worship is and what people do when they worship, what it means to have faith, the faith of others, moral issues and concerns, personal values, commitments and beliefs
- what it means to put God at the heart of school life

**ENCOUNTER a faith which is alive**

- Christianity in Action. The threshold of worship, the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God and creation, a relationship with God

**EXPERIENCE the joy of celebrating God's love**

- Enjoying worship, Church life and Christian practice, God's concern for all people in all areas of life, stillness and reflection
- Participating and leading worship
- Being a part of the school family. Sharing achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

**Organisation, Content and Delivery**

Collective Worship is planned on a half termly basis in relation to:

- Development of Christian Values explored on a half-termly basis – see cycle for teaching Christian values.
- The major Christian festivals and other elements of the Christian year
- Special events in the life of the school
- Current events on a local, national or international level
- Topics and other curricular activity being undertaken
- Links with SEAL, Prevent

## Weekly Plan

In order to provide a variety of groupings for Collective Worship the following weekly timetable has been drawn up:

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MONDAY – 9:10am – Whole School Worship – led by the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership team

TUESDAY – 9:10am – Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Worship – led by a member of the teaching staff from within FS/KS1/Headteacher

10:40am – Key Stage 2 Worship – led by a member of the teaching staff from within KS2/Headteacher

WEDNESDAY – 9:10am – Whole School Worship – led by Revd Philip Venables or representative from St. John’s Church. Monthly service in Church

THURSDAY - 9:10am – Class Worship– led by Class teachers

FRIDAY – 9:10am – “Celebration Worship” – led by the Headteacher or member of SLT

As can be seen from the above plan, a variety of people are involved in leading acts of worship within school including:

- Headteacher
- Deputy Headteacher
- Members of the teaching staff
- Groups /classes of children
- Clergy
- Other local clergy
- Diocesan representatives
- Outside visitors – Scripture Union workers, school chaplain representatives of charities etc.

The Headteacher will seek to ensure that all outside visitors will lead worship which is in line with the aims and values of the school and appropriate for the children.

Whole school and key stage acts of worship will generally take place in the school hall. The school will also use St. John’s Church for acts of worship for the major Christian festivals e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, etc. and for a monthly service in Church.

## Content

The majority of acts of worship will be linked to the half termly focus. However, there may be occasions when a single independent act of worship is more appropriate e.g. class led worship when the focus may be on class topic work, an act of worship led by an outside visitor, an act of worship relating to a particular event that was unforeseen.

Worship is a quality time which is well-planned and integrates a range of teaching approaches – storytelling, music, visual aids, interactive activities and responses.

Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DFES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think or respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. (class led worship). Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

When such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church School, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

## Links with RE

There are very close links between RE and Collective Worship. The school follows the Diocesan Syllabus for the delivery of its RE curriculum. Some of the elements of the RE syllabus are supported and re-enforced through school worship. However, Worship and RE are two distinct areas in their own rights.

## Delivery

A variety of styles of worship are used including:

- The spoken word – story, poetry, personal experiences and anecdotes, interviews, discussion, religious writings, creative and imaginative writing, factual accounts, thoughts for the day, prayers etc.
- The sung word – worship songs, choruses etc.
- Visual stimuli – pictures, posters, artefacts, natural objects, historical objects, personal objects, works of art, video clips etc.
- Performance – dance, mime, drama, role play etc.
- Music – classical, pop, performances by the school choir, music groups etc.
- Periods of silence – for meditation, reflection, private prayer etc.

A worshipful atmosphere is created in the hall through:

- Use of music as the children enter and leave the hall. This music is used as a time for reflection for the theme of our worship.
- Use of a worship table at the front of the hall. This often reflects the colour which is linked to the seasons in the church's year. The worship table contains a variety of Bibles and prayer books. Also, objects/artefacts linked to the weekly theme.
- Candle – placed on the worship table. Used to mark the beginning and end of worship and also as a focal point for worship.
- Cross – placed at the centre of the worship table – used as a focal point for worship.
- Use of silence within worship time as a period of reflection and an opportunity for private prayer.

## **Resources**

Resources for Collective Worship are ordered through the school's internal ordering system by the Worship Co-ordinator. A separate cost centre is set up within the school budget specifically for the purchase of Collective Worship resources. Money is allocated to this cost centre each year. Worship resources are available in the staff room or from the Headteacher/Worship Co-ordinator.

## **Parental Rights of Withdrawal**

Parents may, if they wish, withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision is explained fully in our school brochure.

However, as this is a Church of England School the Governors expect that parents, in choosing the school, are thereby committing themselves to their children taking a full part in the Religious Education and Worship of the school. Removal of pupils from Worship and/or RE cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

## **Consultation and Review**

Evaluation of any Act of Worship is very difficult. However, some feedback may be given by:

- the concentration span of the pupils
- the response of the pupils and other adults – this may be immediate or be evident on a later occasion
- feedback from others e.g. parents, staff

The general procedures and arrangements will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher/Worship Co-ordinator during the Summer Term in preparation for the

new academic year. It will then be approved by the Governors Curriculum Committee at their Autumn term meeting. Changes to the policy will also be approved by all members of the teaching staff.

Approved by Staff, Clergy & members of the Teaching and Learning Committee

Autumn Term 2013

Date of next review – Autumn Term 2015