

<b>Whitchurch C of E Primary School</b>	Effective Date:	February 2018
<b>Policy and Procedure Statement</b>		
 <p><b>Collective Worship</b></p>	Revision Date:	February 2020
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<b>Chair of Governors</b>	Mrs Clare Datta	

## **1. Introduction**

At Whitchurch Primary School, collective worship is an occasion for children and staff to experience the opportunity to acknowledge the reality of God and the spiritual dimension of life: an occasion when all come together, so enhancing the school as a whole and developing its identity. It is considered to be a vital feature of the school's life and work, and allows for all to participate, regardless of personal belief and background. Assemblies and acts of worship are considered to be learning experiences. The disciples on the road to Emmaus experienced Jesus in teaching, in sharing a meal and in fellowship. As a church school, we seek to invite our children to know God in the Christian tradition.

## **2. Aims**

Acts of worship will be of a Christian character (see Principles 3 below). However in recognition that the children of Whitchurch are growing up in a multi-cultural and multi-faith society, we feel it appropriate that the children experience a range of stories and traditions from faiths other than Christianity.

At Whitchurch, it is our aim that collective worship provides the opportunity to:

- celebrate
- share
- foster group identity
- reflect on values
- take a break from everyday business
- learn how to behave in a large social gathering
- perform in front of an audience
- be joined by members of the wider community

## **3. Principles**

1. There will be a daily act of worship for all pupils.
2. Acts of worship will be of a Christian character.
3. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
4. Acts of worship should take place on the school premises, or on special occasions, may be held in church or elsewhere.

5. The Governors, in consultation with the head teacher, have the responsibility of fulfilling the legal requirements.

We believe that collective worship should enhance the religious education of all children. On some occasions, collective 'worship' can be seen as one element of an 'assembly' experience. The definition of 'worship' and what it constitutes can vary. At Whitchurch, we provide the opportunity to learn about the principles embraced within Christian teaching, worship and reflect on God.

Collective worship aims to encourage a range of senses and feelings:

- a sense of beauty
- a sense of wonder and awe
- a feeling of pride
- a feeling of shared sadness/loss/happiness
- a sense of peace
- a sense of thankfulness
- a sense of stillness in the midst of busy life

During an act of worship at Whitchurch, a variety of practices are used:

- song
- reading
- speech and silence
- sitting down and standing up
- eyes open and eyes closed
- a variety of prayer
- reflection
- physical movement and stillness
- music
- drama
- use of the senses

#### **4. Responsibilities**

##### **Class Teachers**

- To organise and deliver a class act of worship, following the collective worship themes.

##### **Collective Worship Manager**

- To co-ordinate themes for each term by meeting with the local clergy and working group
- To provide a copy of termly arrangements and themes for all staff and clergy.
- To maintain a focal point table in the hall, and provide relevant books, artefacts, a candle and theme title.
- To provide relevant resources where possible.

## Collective worship working group

(KS1/KS2 members of staff, subject manager, and local clergy)

- To establish weekly themes for each term.
- To discuss issues arising and report back to staff.

## Head Teacher

- To support the development of collective worship through setting and maintaining the school's aims for collective worship.
- To monitor (with the subject manager) the effectiveness of practice, and the pattern of worship.

## Governors

- To fulfil (in consultation with the head teacher) the legal requirements for collective worship.

## 5. Key Procedures

### 5a. Organisation of worship

- The pattern of worship provides for both acts of worship and assemblies to take place.
- Worship takes place with various groupings of children, and at various times.
- Worship is led by a variety of leaders from within school, and from the wider community including Clergy from the Parish church and lay readers.

The pattern of worship is as follows:

Day	Who is involved?	Where?	Leader	Aim
Monday	Each Key Stage consecutively	Hall	Head/Deputy	Introduce theme/reflection and worship element
Tuesday	Each Key Stage consecutively	Hall	Member of clergy rota	Teaching/worship element
Wednesday	Each Key Stage separately	Hall	Rota of staff to be organised by the music manager	Singing/reflection
Thursday	Each class separately	Classroom	Class teacher	Teaching/sharing/reflection
Friday	Vertically grouped/family groups school in two separate worships	Hall	Head/Deputy/groups /individuals	Sharing/celebrating achievements

## **5b Use of published scheme**

- There are a number of teacher resource books to support collective worship. The school has a number of 'Primary Assembly' Files and 'CEM' Worship Files.
- As part of the development plan for collective worship, a greater number of support resources and artefacts will become available.

## **5c Equal opportunities**

- Collective worship provides the opportunity for all to share, contribute to and gain something from, despite personal beliefs and backgrounds.

## **6. Resources**

- Assembly/Worship resources/information are stored in the staff room.
- Visual OHT's are stored under the focal point table.
- Song lyrics on OHT are filed in the main office.
- CD's are stored in the Group Room.

## **7. Monitoring and Reporting progress**

- The subject manager and head teacher will monitor collective worship.
- Observations of collective worship have taken place there was general satisfaction, with some areas for development.
- The Governor for collective worship has established the views of children since the school adopted some changes in the practice of collective worship.

## **8. Next steps**

- To continue to support the development of collective worship.

## **9. Summary for parents**

- Up to Key Procedures 5c but not including table.