



Walton & Lees Hill CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

POLICY ADOPTED BY FULL GOVERNING BODY: September 2023

Name: Joss Scouler

Position: Chair of Governors

Next Review Date: September 2027

Collective worship at Walton & Lees Hill Church of England Primary School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church (as required by the trust deed and the instrument of governance of this Church of England School)

This policy was agreed by the governing body September 2023 and will be reviewed within four years. Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship will be provided with a copy of this policy.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.
- For the pupils to enjoy all aspects of collective worship in an environment best suited to their needs.
- To introduce pupils to a variety of forms of worship. Seeking to reflect the rich diversity of experience in the Anglican (and other Christian) traditions locally and around the world.
- To enable pupils and adults to approach the 'threshold of worship' and particularly to support expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity, contrition, expectation, assurance and respect.
- To enable pupils to explore the use of silence for stilling, reflection and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these by people of faith.
- To affirm the value and special gifts and status that Christians believe each person has in the sight of God.
- To develop an understanding, appreciation and respect for social and cultural diversity in the community and in respect for others.
- To exploit learning across all curriculum areas to support daily worship and the celebration of Christian values in daily life.

Organisation

An Act of Collective Worship is usually held at the end of each school day in the hall, lasting 10 -15 minutes. Services are led by the staff and frequently by the children. The Friday worship includes a celebration of the children's efforts and achievements in school and elsewhere.

Parents, Governors and members of the Church and the local community attend special services and festivals and are welcomed to Collective Worship in school frequently.

Visitors are an important part of the life of the school and sometimes contribute to acts of worship. The incumbent of the parish is invited, as are members of charitable organisations offering their expertise to the school.

On some major festival days and at the end of each term the whole school visits the local Church for an act of worship. The school grounds are also used for outdoor collective worship.

Content and Approach

The plan for worship is based on half termly themes linked to Christian values which are broken down into weekly sub themes. It will include:

- Links to the Church year
- Presentation of Bible stories.
- Opportunities for children's participation
- Links to the school curriculum
- A variety of stimuli and media, including the creative arts
- Opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally

All worship leaders are required to:

- Respect the life choices of the children and other participants, particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith.
- Use the collective worship plan unless there are special circumstances which make this inappropriate.
- Ensure that their worship addresses the needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children and uses a variety of aesthetic materials and other stimuli and active learning styles.
- Provide opportunities for participation by the children, including regular opportunities for them to lead parts of worship.
- Include opportunities for appropriate prayer and reflection.
- Complete a brief record of their worship with suggestions, as appropriate, for how it may be improved next time (by amending the planning documents).

The children produce a review of worship termly, often as a display in the hall.

Resources

The school budget includes a sum of £150 to be used annually for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids, artefacts, posters and books are purchased regularly and are catalogued and stored in the staff room.

Evaluation and Review

The governor with oversight of collective worship is the Foundation Governor. They will meet annually with the worship co-ordinator to monitor:

- The implementation of this policy
- The ongoing plan for collective worship
- Informal conversations with parents after special acts of worship.
- Parental feedback on the reverse of service sheets.
- Seeking views of staff and visiting worship leaders.
- Worship evaluation compiled by pupils.

Foundation governors also participate in collective worship as often as they can. With the collective worship co-ordinator they will report annually to the full governing body and propose any necessary amendments to the SDP including the need for staff development or training.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation.

Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the Headteacher to discuss this. The Headteacher will report to governors the numbers (but not the names) of any children who are withdrawn and the arrangements that have been made for their supervision

