



Weaverthorpe C.E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by: IEB

Autumn1 2021

Review date Autumn1 2024

Christian Vision for Weaverthorpe School
'The Lord is my Shepherd. He guides me in the right paths as he has promised.'
(Psalm 23)

At Weaverthorpe School we are on a lifelong journey together, setting our 'compass'
to the values of – Love, Friendship, Kindness and Courage

Rationale

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school; reaffirms our vision and associated values of love, friendship, kindness and courage 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 and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Weaverthorpe C of E Primary School is planned to:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the 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. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, 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"
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective Worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Board of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated on our website.

Parents need to contact the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship can be found on our website.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

It is important that we remember Collective Worship should be inclusive, inspirational and invitational no matter where it is held or who is leading.

- Inclusive: something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with.

- Inspirational: a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development.
- Invitational: an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.
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We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. At Weavertorpe School we are fully inclusive and welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect. Please see our Inclusion and Equal Opportunities policy (under review) for further information.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle, focussing on a theme or value, inviting pupils and staff to participate and asking children to reflect quietly.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a four stage structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. A Worship Council meets once each half-term led by the worship co-ordinator (Assistant Head). These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last half-terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought through the Worship Council and pupils evaluating each Collective Worship. Collective Worship is also discussed and evaluated with the Ethos Group, each term, made up of staff and Governors. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

Members of the Ethos group, Rev Bowden and Alison Smith have a role to monitor the impact of Collective Worship.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of Collective Worship planning. These include 'Roots and Fruits', 'Journey through the Bible' and 'Values for Life'.

The programme for acts of Collective Worship follows the guidance of the Church of England 'Journey through the Bible' and is led and coordinated by the Assistant Head and Rev Bowden.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held on four days a week. These are taken by Reverend Bowden and all teachers, on a rota, with help from the pupils.

Class / Key Stage Worship is held once a week. These are taken by the class teachers, with help from the pupils.

Visitors will be invited to lead and join our Collective Worship at various times throughout the year, linked to themes or special celebrations.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year and the 'Journey through the Bible'.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Staff, ministers, parents or friends of the school are involved as often as possible, some on a regular basis, with the worship programme. Pupils are also regularly given the opportunity of being actively involved in this programme. Services throughout the year will be held in the Church, village hall or community, when all are invited to join us.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation and is fed back to the whole governing body.

All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after each worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis with our Worship Group and Ethos Group and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).