

# Westhead Lathom St James' CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Last Reviewed Date: Autumn 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn 2024

Version Control:

Issue	Date	Author/Editor	Revision Notes
6	Spring 2014	Alison Albion	Policy reviewed & updated
7	Summer 2015	Alison Albion	Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Motto updated
8	Autumn 2019	Helen Clark	Policy reviewed and updated to ensure it reflects current practice. New vision and values added.
9	Autumn 2020	Helen Clark	Policy addendum added re covid restrictions.
10	Autumn 2021	Helen Clark	Added new resources used in CW
11	Autumn 2022	Helen Clark	Added new resources used in CW Planning section revised Staff responsible for delivery updated
12	Autumn 2023	Helen Clark	Reviewed

## **Vision Statement: Our Vision for the Future**

***'A curriculum that is challenging, inspiring and engaging; in which all pupils flourish spiritually, creatively and academically to become confident young people.'***

***'With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.'*** Ephesians 3:20 New Century Version (NCV)

## Core Principles

- We will provide the opportunity for everyone to achieve their full potential.
- We have high expectations for ourselves and each other.
- We will ensure that the Christian values of Wisdom, Dignity, Hope and Community are at the heart of our community.
- We celebrate the unique qualities of each child and ensure their individual needs are met.
- We will foster effective partnerships with home involving parents and carers in their child's education and encourage their support of school life.
- We will ensure all children, regardless of background or starting points, have access to an inspiring and engaging curriculum that promotes learning and develops them into confident young people.

## Statutory Requirement

*'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1993)* ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Also *'It must contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.'*

The Collective Worship Policy at Westhead Lathom St James' CE Primary School follows the guidance of Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship and the Diocese of Liverpool Handbook for Church Schools.

The School's founding Trust Deed sets no criteria for Collective Worship.

## Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to provide an experience that lets children:

- reflect upon God and give Him honour
- explore their own beliefs
- be active partners in the planning, delivery and evaluation of worship
- experience and nurture the spiritual dimension through worship
- experience something special and separate from ordinary school activities
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- reinforce positive attitudes and our Christian values of Wisdom, Dignity, Hope and Community

- explore themes related to our values such as compassion, generosity, love, forgiveness and peace
- experience spiritual, moral and cultural development
- cultivate awe and wonder of the world and develop an awareness of our responsibility to look after our planet
- celebrate their uniqueness and preciousness in the eyes of others and God
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer.

### **Elements of Worship**

Collective worship should be inclusive, spiritual and educational.

*It should be inclusive:*

- pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- acknowledge diversity
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- enable children to participate and respond, by active involvement or listening and reflection
- match the needs of pupils
- foster a sense of community
- develop personal relationships and encourage social development

*It should be spiritual:*

- ensure children feel calm, relaxed and secure
- be a special time conducive to worship
- foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual experiences
- allow time to be still, encouraging children to make effective use of silence for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- provide an opportunity for children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community, and to respect all individuals as children of God
- provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others
- include a variety of words, music, images, artefacts and symbols

*It should be educational:*

- reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others
- enable children to share some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level
- provide children with a vocabulary of worship

- encourage respect and care of God’s creation by a positive attitude to local and global environmental issues
- provide opportunities to celebrate major and minor Christian festivals
- be properly planned
- be consistent with the aims of the school

### **Planning**

Responsibility for planning Collective Worship resides with the Headteacher supported by the teaching staff.

The planning for Collective Worship themes is done collaboratively between Miss Clark, Headteacher and Rev John Sephton. The rota for worship for the year is based upon the needs of pupils, prior experiences and evaluations, and is linked to the Christian calendar as well as other major festivals and cultural events.

In addition, at least every half term the Ethos Group plan and lead Collective Worship ensuring that opportunities for reflection and prayer are included. Where possible work of the world’s churches is highlighted and powerful visuals are included to widen the children’s knowledge and interest.

### **Visitors to Collective Worship**

We welcome the wider perspective provided by other Christian denominations and invite other Christian ministry to lead our collective worship. The clergy from St James’ church in Westhead visit school every third week to deliver whole school collective worship. Other speakers are also invited from time to time. Visitors are briefed beforehand about the theme of the collective worship and the appropriate level of meaning for our children. Visitors usually contribute towards collective worship rather than take the lead. Parents and grandparents are invited to collective worship every Friday.

### **Implementation**

Daily collective worship usually takes place on school premises but may sometimes be in St. James’ Church. Collective worship should be acceptable to and appropriate for all participants, staff and pupils.

Monday Whole School Worship	Led by Miss H Clark, Headteacher, Rev J Sephton or Ethos Group
Tuesday Whole School Praise Worship	Led by Mrs Lyon, Mrs Cusick, Mrs Smyth and Miss Tither on rotation
Wednesday Whole School Worship	Led by Miss H Clark, Headteacher or Ethos Group
Thursday	Led by class teachers or pupils

Class Worship	
Friday	Led by Miss H Clark, Headteacher
Whole School Celebration Worship	Parents and carers invited to share this worship.

### **Themes**

We have adopted four core Christian values that form the basis of our worship and wider school life:

Wisdom

Dignity

Hope

Community

Each value is explored through a range of related themes in collective worship. Themes include:

Peace, compassion, love, friendship, forgiveness, courage, generosity, perseverance,

Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus. Significant dates in the Christian year and church calendar are celebrated as well as other days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that benefit from reflection and prayers.

### **Prayer**

Prayers are collected from children across the school at the beginning of a week and these are then shared in our whole school collective worship as well as with church who then share these in their newsletter. Opportunities for planned and spontaneous prayer are encouraged during worship and pupils are also introduced to some traditional prayers such as: The Lord's prayer, school prayer and the grace.

### **Resources**

Staff members have access to a range of worship resources in the Headteacher's office that provide detail and ideas for worship themes. St. James' Church provides Christian artefacts for use during worship. In addition, each classroom has a worship box which includes: artefacts, bibles, prayers, candles, and cloths reflecting the liturgical colours of the church calendar.

### **Role of the Co-ordinator**

The co-ordinator is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

### **Evaluation of Worship**

The co-ordinator monitors whole school and class acts of worship throughout the year, alongside pupils, parents and governors. The views of all groups are taken into account in future planning of worship.