

Worlingham CEVC Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

*Like a tree firmly planted by streams of living water we will grow
in knowledge, love, faith and wisdom. Based on Psalm 1:3*



The spiritual and moral aspects of educating the whole child are central to the ethos of Worlingham Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. Christian beliefs and teachings are absolutely central to this ethos, alongside celebrating the diversity of other beliefs and faiths.

Acts of Collective Worship are a crucial part of our daily routine in our school, giving time for reflection, prayer and development of our ethos in all its aspects.

The purpose of this policy is to give guidance and support as well as explaining our aims for Collective Worship in our school.

The aims of Collective Worship at Worlingham CEVC Primary School

We aim to provide daily acts of Collective Worship that will develop the children's understanding of:

- The world around them.
- The features of a Christian community and faith and also to develop the children's spiritual and moral growth through relevant stories and ideas.

Worship also provides opportunities for quiet reflection, thanksgiving, prayer, worshipping God and time for the children to develop their own ideas and beliefs through stories, discussions, music, poetry, drama and dance.

Collective Worship is also a time to develop a sense of wonder and awe as well as citizenship and being part of a community which is caring and supportive.

Legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 education Act requires schools to ensure that the following happens:

- All pupils take part in an act of Collective Worship every day.
- Acts of worship are organised in ways which include all children- for example whole school, Key stage and class.
- The act of worship takes place on school premises and any that take place elsewhere, for example, church, are additional to this.
- The Governing Body and specifically the Foundation Governors are responsible for ensuring that the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- As a Church school, the worship will be broadly Christian in character.
- All staff, including the Headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for ensuring that the Act takes place and is led by a suitable person.
- All parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount and alternative arrangements need to be made.

The organisation of Collective Worship at Worlingham CEVC Primary School

There is an act of Collective Worship every day as follows:

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| Monday | - | 9.10 am: Whole school, taken by either Headteacher, Class Teacher or a class based on termly theme. |
| Tuesday | - | 9.10 am: Whole school hymn practice which includes a time for |

- reflection.
- Wednesday** - 9.10 am: Each class holds own in class discussion, story or sharing time including time for reflection.
- Thursday** - 9.10 am: Whole school, taken by staff or classes in rotation, as well as other visitors and the Rector.
- Friday** - 9.10 am: Whole school celebration assembly, taken by the Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher. Includes a time for reflection led by class teachers/children.

All these Assemblies take place in the school hall, with the exception of the class Assemblies which take place in the classrooms.

Every term we visit the church and hold a school assembly there, as follows;

- Autumn term - Christmas
- Spring term - Easter
- Summer term - End of Year Assembly

Themes are decided on a termly basis for School Assemblies.

Assemblies are based on current issues within school, festivals, special days, human values as well as themes suggested by children, collated from pupil surveys.

An Act of Collective Worship always begins with music playing for the children to listen to when they come into the hall. The children are expected to enter and sit in silence. The children know that this is a time for them to sit and think. What they think about is entirely their decision.

How the rest of the Assembly is organised is at the discretion of the person leading it, but generally takes the form of a story or discussion and sharing of information, often involving the children, followed by a time of prayer and then a hymn or song.

Music is played at the end of the Assembly and the children are expected to sit in silence until it is their turn to leave the hall, which they also do in silence. The children know that Assembly time is a time to listen and think as well as take part and they are expected to behave in an appropriate manner.

Staff are expected to attend Assemblies, other than in exceptional circumstances, and to set an appropriate example to the children, and to respect the quiet time at the beginning and end of the Assembly.

Planning and Themes

A list of themes for each term is planned and available from Mrs Wood the school's RE co-ordinator and posted on the staff room notice board. There is also a rota for those taking Assemblies displayed in the staff room. The Head teacher keeps a file of all Assemblies taken. Assemblies usually last about 15 minutes in all.

Withdrawal

Parents are advised of their right to withdraw children from Collective Worship acts in the school brochure. Any child who does not attend Assembly for this reason must be provided with an alternative activity and appropriate supervision must be organised.

Ofsted

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England school, we are inspected separately for Collective Worship and receive a written report. A copy of our latest inspection report, which took place in May 2014 is available at the school office. (V6) JUNE 2020