

Trusting in God; Growing in Wisdom



Collective Worship Policy

Date: March 2023

Review Date: March 2026

With thankful hearts, we trust in God as we grow in his love which shines through us. We aim to live our faith and grow in wisdom.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:13)

But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy. (James 3:17)

At Whitegate C/E Primary we are a partnership of school, church, home and community. We create a stimulating and caring environment, grounded in Christian belief and practice, so that all members of our school community feel happy, safe and secure. Time is taken to value and nurture each child educationally, creatively and spiritually, valuing the preciousness of each individual. Children and staff are encouraged to live their faith and grow in wisdom.

a) ENTITLEMENT

At Whitegate C/E Primary the school worships together at least four times a week.

Children learn simple prayers and responses, which are used as part of our Collective Worship.

The Vicar or Children's Worker from St Mary's Church or a volunteer from a neighbouring church leads the whole school Collective Worship each Tuesday.

We visit St. Mary's Church, Whitegate regularly across the year for event such as harvest, Christmas and Easter. These services are led by the children, for the children.

Although our school is Church of England, we feel that the worship in the school is appropriate to all Christians. Parents and friends are invited to join us in church.

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b) THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Whitegate Church of England Primary we aim to:

- To support the growth of thankfulness, trust, nurturing and nourishing of faith, shining and developing wisdom.
- Provide an act of Collective Worship for every child every day.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development.
- Enable everyone to celebrate the whole life of the school in the presence of God.
- Allow pupils to become familiar with a variety of worship in the Anglican tradition, according to their development stages.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to address God directly.
- Encourage pupils to learn more about the Christian faith.
- Nurture a concern for the wider world.
- Encourage reflection on pupils' own experiences and beliefs.

c) LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All schools are required to provide an act of worship each day for each pupil; unless parents have stated that their child should be withdrawn.

The whole school does not need to meet together, but may meet in classes or groups.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children; however, such children **will** miss a valuable part of our school's life and sharing of corporate experiences.

Teachers too have the right to decline to lead worship, but this will normally have been explored when staff were appointed.

d) RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The governing board, after consultation with the Head Teacher, is responsible for seeing that the character of the school is reflected in the worship.

The foundation governors have responsibility for seeing that the character of the school is reflected in the worship.

The Diocesan Guidelines for collective Worship state:

‘Church of England schools are required to hold a daily act of collective worship which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Opportunities should therefore be provided for pupils to offer worship to God, through Jesus Christ, without losing sight of either the different starting points of each of the pupils, or the need for the act of worship to take account of the developmental ages of the pupils’

e) CURRICULUM TIME

The act of worship is not included as part of the allocation for curriculum time.

On special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter we hold our act of worship in St Mary’s Church, but this again, is not counted as curriculum time.

f) COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Where collective worship and Religious Education are conducted in accordance with the Trust of Deed, any complaints from parents should be addressed to the Governors. In the case of appeals, these should be taken up by the Diocese.

g) PLANNING AND THE CONTENT OF OUR WORSHIP

In planning the worship of our school, we provide opportunity for:

- Exploration of a focus.
- Reflection.
- Celebration
- Pupil participation.

All the content that is explored within our times of collective worship will provide opportunities for supporting the growth of thankfulness, trust, nurturing and nourishing of faith, shining and developing wisdom. This will generally, but not exclusively, follow the following structure:

Aut 1	Aut 2	Spr 1	Spr 2	Sum 1	Sum 2
Thankfulness	Trust	Growing in love	Growing in faith	Shine	Growing in wisdom

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When planning for collective worship, the collective worship led needs to be informed of what the topic (story, Biblical character) of the collective worship will be.

Most of the time, the topic for a collective worship will be agreed upon by the leader of the collective worship and the collective worship lead. Sometimes, people leading collective worship will be asked to discuss a particular topic by the collective worship lead. This should be followed.

h) OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR THIS MAY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

- Developing a sense of awe and wonder.
- Celebrating the beauty of living things.
- Searching for meaning.
- Experiencing an awareness of the spiritual dimension, God, self and others.
- Prayer.
- Affirming positive values (e.g. decency, honesty, self-sacrifice, courage, human rights.)
- Being aware of negative behaviour (e.g. cruelty, injustice, exploitation.)
- Exploring right and wrong.
- Reflecting on broader and more lasting concerns.
- Valuing things of worth.
- Creating an atmosphere of reverence and mystery.
- Giving thanks.
- Experiencing a caring and compassionate community.
- Exploring emotions, thoughts and ideas.
- Promoting a sense of friendship, acceptance and unity.
- Encouraging responsibility for making personal decision.
- Celebrating achievements and special occasions.

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- Sharing and experiencing similarities and differences.

This may incorporate the following elements:

Adults may lead through:	Children may participate by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prayer ● Reflection ● Discussion ● Silence ● Song/music ● Drama ● Pictures ● Poetry ● Story ● Artefacts ● Special people/visitors ● Children's work and achievements ● Sacred writing ● Video/media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning ● Acting ● Singing ● Leading ● Dancing ● Listening ● Thinking ● Praying ● Questioning ● Answering ● Reading
<p>The following would not be appropriate approaches to leading collective worship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watching long videos (anything over 3 minutes). 	

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- Simply reading a passage from the Bible or a story without any unpacking of the story (focus for collective worship can be found in section G).

i) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school’s self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, reflections from collective worships, school council, ethos committee.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every 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. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop.

These are shared with our worship lead and SLT and during full governing body meetings and play and 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 Chester (SIAMS).

Date of Policy: March 2023

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	MICHAEL HEATHCOTE
APPROVED:	FGBM 21.3.23
SIGNED:	J BANCROFT
TO BE REVIEWED:	MARCH 2026

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