

Date Last Reviewed: Autumn 2014

Date Reviewed: June 2019.

Date Ratified: July 2019.

Date Next Review Due: Summer 2023

**Whittingham C of E Primary School**

**POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Our School Vision

The children know these as the 3R’s:

‘Hand in hand together we will become ***resilient***, ***respectful***and ***responsible*** citizens of our community and the wider world.’

Bible references linked to our vision.

*Resilience* - I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

*Respect* - In your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and **respect.** Peter 3:15

*Responsibility- Parable of the Talents Matthew 25: 14-30.*

**Our School Aims and Values**

• To provide an open, secure and welcoming Christian environment for each pupil. This is expressed through daily worship which acknowledges the presence of God in our lives.

• To further develop and value the partnership that exists between school and the local churches, in particular, through sharing weekly worship and to encourage an appreciation of the Christian faith and a familiarity with the local Christian heritage.

• To care for each pupils’ safety, happiness and well-being.

• To value our pupils as individuals, developing their ability to take responsibility for themselves and their actions, promoting confidence and self-esteem, and respect for others and their environment.

• To equip our pupils with the knowledge to make informed choices about having a safe and healthy lifestyle.

• To offer opportunities for our pupils to become involved in the daily life of the school and to prepare them to play an active role as citizens locally and in the wider world.

• To provide a learning environment, which is challenging and stimulating yet ordered and disciplined.

• To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, setting realistic targets for each pupil.

• To extend and reinforce our pupils learning, making expectations clear, and raising achievement levels.

• To develop and maintain a mutually supportive partnership between home and school.

## Rationale

The school aims to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at or local Parish and Diocesan level.

Whittingham C of E Primary School serves the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values (the values of respect , responsibility and resilience are at the heart of all that we do) through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

At Whittingham C of E Controlled Primary School Collective Worship is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The staff and Governors see the main purpose of the school as providing an excellent education both academically and socially in a Christian context for all its pupils. Collective Worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a strong sense of community.

Our school is distinctively different to non-Church schools, as a result of the importance placed on the social, emotional, moral and spiritual life of all members of the school community – pupils, teachers, governors and non-teaching staff. The careful planning and delivery of the R.E. curriculum, and the quality of the worship offered in school make a significant contribution to the all round development of everyone in our school community. Our worship allows children to see themselves as being unique and special individuals. Such an understanding encourages children to relate one with another in a *responsible* and *respectful* manner.

## Definition

Collective worship and assembly are not the same, although collective worship may be part of an assembly. Collective worship is defined as worship appropriate to a group of individuals possessing a range of beliefs, believers and non-believers. During worship we aim to learn about and praise God. It therefore involves us gathering together to express feelings of *respect* for themselves, to others, our local community and our wider world. It is a time when children can celebrate their social and academic achievements and a time to foster positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

As a school with an Anglican foundation, collective worship at Whittingham reflects the traditions established within the Church of England, as such there is an extremely strong bond forged with our local clergy and the Church of St Bartholomew..

## The Legal Basis of Collective Worship

The Education Acts of 1988 and 1993 re-emphasised the obligation laid on schools to provide a daily act of worship.

In a Controlled School arrangements for collective worship are made by the governing body after consultation with the Head Teacher. Within the governing body, the foundation governors have particular responsibility for seeing that the character of the school is reflected in the worship. Acts of collective worship may be held off the school premises if they are additional to the statutory act of collective worship.

Collective Worship can take place at any time of the school day but it cannot be designated as teaching time.

## Objectives

Collective Worship at Whittingham C of E Primary will be a stimulating and enjoyable experience in which children can develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes. We intend to achieve this by providing children with opportunities to:

* + *Develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.*
  + *Develop a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships.*
  + *Experience thanks giving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear and forgiveness.*
  + *Develop awareness and concern for the needs of others as well as their own personal needs.*
  + *Encounter beliefs, prayers, symbols and songs from the Anglican tradition in an appropriate manner.*
  + *Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues.*
  + *Respond through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.*
  + *Celebrate the Festivals and celebrations of the church year and that of other world faiths.*
  + *Share in church life and Christian practice.*
  + *Affirm values and commitment and reinforce positive attitudes throughout the school, the local community and the wider world.*

## Provision of Worship

There is a daily act of worship for reception Class to Year 6 pupils, currently provided in the following way:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the week** | **Worship activity** | **Led by** |
| Monday | Class Worship ( KS 2 Global Issues) | Class teacher |
| Tuesday | Whole school worship- | Member of SLT |
| Wednesday | Visitor whole school worship | Visitor rota – all staff attend |
| Thursday | Whole school worship | EYFS teacher |
| Friday | Whole school worship – Celebrating God Given Talents. | Member of SLT\* |

*Half termly Child Led Worship see calendar on website.*

Preparing for whole school worship is a significant responsibility as we aim to provide thought provoking responses from all those involved. Given the spread of understanding across the primary age range we constantly review our provision and as of School Year 2018-19 we introduced Key Stage Worship. This enables a greater depth of discussion and understanding about our worship themes and global issues.

Worship begins with a welcome to all present, such as:

* + The Lord be with you / *and also with you*
  + Peace be with you/ *and also with you*

Opportunities to reflect on wider questions are provided, and often children are asked to talk to one another and share beliefs.

Hymns from a range of genres are included in worship.

We conclude with prayers such as our School Prayer or the Lord’s Prayer to reflect and experience a moment of stillness and time to pause and reflect.

## Planning

We are proud of how we have developed our planning for Collective Worship as a staff meeting time is designated 1x per half term for all staff to be together and plan, further evaluate and discuss.

Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories

Observing the cycle of the Church’s Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Day

Core Christian values including our 3 R’s, as well as friendship, forgiveness, courage, peace and endurance

Significant events- such as transition, bereavement, supporting others through ill health and the importance of courageous advocacy this is done through our chosen charities - Soccer Aid, Christian Aid, I Will Campaign etc.

Pupil voice

There is flexibility to address local issues as they arise, for example the children in KS 2 visited church as part of International Day of Peace and the School Council supported our Vicar a week promoting awareness of Alzheimer’s and served cupcakes to members of the local community in church, and the rota was changed.

Those leading the worship then take responsibility for the unique content and style of delivery.

## Worship At Other Times

Children are invited to say prayers, or to make reflective contributions at other times, such as at the end of lunch, or visits to church There are reflection areas set out in school where children can interact with resources or leave written messages/ prayers ( in the hall) or have a moment of stillness and reflection in an area of the library, outside reflection area and also areas around our amazing natural environment which encourage children to experience awe and wonder on a daily basis..

## Visitors

The school welcomes visitors to lead worship, however due to our rural location this is an ongoing challenge but is recognised as such on our SDP.

## Partnership With Our Parish

We work in partnership with the congregation at St Bartholomew’s to enhance the worshipful experience offered to the staff and children.

We pass on information about worship held in the church to our parents via newsletters, emails, weekly blog, Facebook and Twitter Pages to invite them to regular services and special events.

Parents are also invited to join us as we celebrate Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers with services led by the children, which take place in the church.

Many of our pupils attend out of school activities such as Messy Church and we did organise a baby and toddler session held in church which has now moved to the local village hall.

## Inclusion

Worship is provided for all children at Whittingham and makes a valuable contribution to their education. Worship has a large part to play in promoting the school’s core Christian values which are affectionately called The 3 R’s: Resilience, Respect and Responsibility. Such values help to establish respect towards others and remove prejudice / misunderstanding when exploring stereotyping, discrimination, sexism and racism, this is particularly important given our rural location.

All pupils, irrespective of ability, age, gender or race are entitled to equal opportunity in terms of spiritual development.

## Monitoring And Evaluation

This is undertaken on a weekly basis through immediate feedback from pupils and staff about the worship themes. Consideration is also given to the following:

* + Written evaluation of worship from pupils and staff
  + Learning visits undertaken by Vicar Jane
  + Pupil voice- gathering their opinion on the learning opportunities and their first-hand experience, including an annual questionnaire
  + Informal feedback from parents

## Continued Professional Development

Staff are encouraged to attend external courses to improve their knowledge and expertise in planning worship as recently as September 2018. This has included events organised by Jo Warner. The assistant director of education Durham and Newcastle Joint Education Board. The headteacher attends Diocesan Conferences both on a regional and national level ( Character of Education for example) as well as termly church schools partnership meetings.

## Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from worship as in any school but it is hoped that the majority of parents choosing a church school would welcome their child taking part in worshipful activity.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from one aspect of worship, or the range of activities, must request this by writing to the Headteacher on an annual basis, outlining their wishes.

## Arrangements For Complaints

As we always work closely with parents, consulting them at every stage, complaints about worship provision are extremely rare. However, should there be a concern; the following procedure should be followed in line with our complaints procedure:

1. Parents are encouraged to discuss the concern with the class teacher. (If the concern is not resolved at this stage proceed to 2).
2. Parents make an appointment to discuss the concern with the Headteacher. The class teacher may or may not be present. (Unresolved concerns move to 3).
3. The matter should be referred to the Chair of Governors. A letter explaining the concern should be given to the school office addressed to the Chair of Governors, Whittingham C of E Primary School.