



'Where Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked'

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2018

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that every child and adult makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship underpins and embeds our Christian ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Witton 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. Children and staff are encouraged to aim for 'Everyday Excellence' and believe in themselves in order to achieve their full potential.

OUR AIMS

- To nurture our children, following the teaching of the church within the Christian ethos of our school
- To encourage all children to reach their full potential through a broad, balanced, exciting and differentiated curriculum
- To have high expectations of both pupils and staff, to support the raising of standards and development process through planning, assessment and recording of progress
- To create caring, courteous and happy relationships that promote spiritual and moral growth, self-esteem and encourage each child to respect others and their views
- To encourage children to recognise and take responsibility for their own behaviour and the impact it has on others, to be proud of themselves and their achievements
- To promote a safe, secure and stimulating environment in which to learn
- To encourage team work and co-operation and provide children with positive role models

- Provide support in promoting life-long learning for all and effective staff development
- To share the financial resources of the school appropriately to support the planned action in the Strategic School Development Plan
- To be a valuable part of the local community
- Christian values embedded throughout our school

THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Witton Church Walk Church of England Primary we aim to:

- Offer opportunities for all children and adults to grow spiritually and morally through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ through music, story, prayer, reflection, festivals and the liturgical structure to develop understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- Explore and reflect on values which are of broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- Respect individual beliefs and develop an awareness for the world around us and our sense of place in it
- Develop reflective, questioning thinking to explore beliefs, values and practices openly and honestly
- Continue to develop as a school community through shared values and Christian ethos

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible 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 Days
- Joining in prayer, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style
- Develop an understanding of the Trinity

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g. *The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us; Peace be with you/ and also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen*
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

Collective worship organisation:

We hold acts of collective worship every day. Acts of worship take place in classrooms, in the hall and St Helen's Church. Harvest, Christmas, and Easter Services are held at St Helen's Church, as is the Leavers' Service. Every Friday we hold a "Celebration Worship" to recognise and celebrate achievement in its widest sense; which includes the elements required for an act of worship.

The themes can include elements of the SEAL & HeartSmart programme, British values, important historical dates, links to the curriculum and topical items but generally will follow our focus on our school's Christian values– linking in to other themes where appropriate.

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
- The Lord's Prayer, together with a range of Anglican and Christian responses are used;
- We aim to create an atmosphere of reverence, sometimes stillness and calm, and a respect for reflection. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall;
- Our usual format includes: Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending;
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time;
- It is intended that visitors are regularly invited to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship
- Our daily act of collective worship is planned to last for 20 minutes

Children are expected to lead worship throughout the year. The Ethos Group will lead worship at the beginning of each term and our two collective worship leads will be responsible for the worship area and for the choice of music during celebration worship.

Class-based acts of collective worship:

- During class based worship children are provided with opportunities to reflect on their worship and explore the personal impact of their worship
- These acts of collective worship are led by the class teacher, Teaching Assistant or by one or more of the pupils
- These are planned to last for up to 20 minutes.

Use of Visitors

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In collective worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'e-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked carefully by the worship leader, prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Similarly, pupils

must be familiar with exit routes from St Helen's Church. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children/young people.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions relating to the nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act. During collective worship, if other religions are referred to, this will be in a fair and accurate manner, affirming diversity and equality.

Resources

A range of resources is available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and the use of appropriate websites to enhance worship is encouraged. An annual allocation, managed by the Headteacher, is available to purchase resources and for training purposes.

In-Service Training

Training by Chester Diocese is used, historically, together with support from our Reverend.

Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Collective Worship Lead, Headteacher and Foundation Governor to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. This formal monitoring should take place three times per year and be reported. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually. Other governors are also invited to worship when attending school for formal monitoring visits and a comment is encouraged in their report.

Leaders of Act of Worship are expected to evaluate the Act and children are encouraged to share their questions, thoughts and prayers. Evaluations are kept in the Collective Worship book.

As part of our pupil voice, a random selection of pupils are asked to comment on their experiences of and responses to collective worship, further comments are invited from the School Council and staff. Class teachers invite feedback from children on a regular basis. Staff discuss collective worship at staff meetings on a termly basis, recorded in the minutes of staff meetings. Parents are invited to comment on collective worship, e.g. via a questionnaire at parent consultation meetings, at least annually. Each child has a Reflective Journal and are given opportunities to use these after worship.

Self-assessment and Inspection

School self-evaluation will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by the Headteacher, the Collective Worship lead, the R.E. lead and the SIAMS governing body committee. We are inspected by both SIAMS and Ofsted.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Children who are withdrawn from collective worship for any reason are supervised by a staff member, however they are not offered an alternative act. These children generally read or engage in a quiet activity.

