



Collective Worship Policy

Review: Annual

Date	HT	Chair	Date of next review
May 25	M Hibbert	C Glynn	May 2026

Collective Worship Policy

School Vision

Let your light shine. Matthew 5:15-16

Purpose of the school from the Trust Document

The school was founded in 1903 by the Church of England to be:

'... a school for the education of children and adults or children of the labouring manufacturing and poorer classes in the parish of Weston-on-Trent aforesaid and it is hereby declared that the school shall be in union with and conducted according to the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the incorporated National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church... '

Introduction

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school, collective worship is central to the life and purposes of Weston on Trent Church of England (VA) Primary School and is integral to the development of its Christian vision, values and ethos. We are committed to offering high quality collective worship. We value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision.

Aims

We share the view of Derby Diocese that:

'Collective worship is the 'heartbeat' of every Church school. It is an important means by which the vision of the school is expressed and explored.'

We believe that in a church school collective worship should be **invitational, inclusive and inspiring**.

We recognize that not every member of the school's community follows the Christian faith, however, our daily acts of worship are intended to be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Collective worship at Weston on Trent Church of England Primary School will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, and festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Legal Framework

As a Church of England school, our collective worship reflects the aims stated in our trust document to uphold the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and that all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship.

The 1994 legal framework documentation regarding collective worship states that all maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Added to this is the requirement to promote British values as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

Collective worship is about a school's duty to develop pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.
Source: NATRE

Organisation and Practice

Collective Worship is held daily at the end of the school day.

Collective Worship is planned by Mark Hibbert (Headteacher), Amy Melland (Assistant Headteacher) and Martin Stephens (SENDCo) in collaboration with others such as the school's chaplain, and is organised around both Values for Life and the Anglican liturgical calendar. Members of staff are invited to lead or to participate in daily worship- this includes governors. Our parish vicar regularly leads our collective worship and other visitors are encouraged and welcomed to attend, or to lead using our values as a starting point for their collective worship.

On Fridays, a celebration collective worship is held with good choices and kind acts celebrated. This collective worship always ends with the singing of the school song (Appendix 1) and engenders a strong sense of community and of shared endeavor. The school's vision 'Let Your Light Shine' is central to this act of worship as is its embodiment in the acronym 'STAR' (Strive, Teamwork, Always and Respect).

Throughout each half term, explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school. When appropriate, parents and relatives are provided with additional reading material, related to the current value, to enable them to support this at home.

A group of Year 6 children take responsibility for setting up of Collective Worship. They also contribute to the planning, welcome their peers and lead the worship when appropriate.

Throughout Collective Worship a range and variety of materials is used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle. Our half termly overview is available on the school website.

Each act of worship begins with the call to worship (Appendix 2) and ends with a blessing written by the Worship Team (Appendix 3).

Parental and Community Involvement

Parents, relatives and members of the community are invited, and encouraged, to attend acts of collective worship at various times during the year, both in school and at St Mary's Church.

On Friday, when we hold the Celebration Collective Worship and applaud children who have earned awards for making an exceptional effort, all members of the school community are included even if parents choose to withdraw them from other acts of worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the Headteacher and the Governors who should monitor and evaluate the success of acts of collective worship through:

- Discussion at assembly planning meetings.
- Regular discussions with staff, parents and pupils as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship. □
Headteacher observation of, and participation in, acts of worship to assess children's involvement and response and appropriateness of content and presentation.
- Monitoring by children through the work of the worship group, predominately through completing evaluation sheets.
- Regular review of school practice, evaluated against SIAMS Self Evaluation documentation.
- Identification of any relevant staff training needs.
- Regular monitoring and development of resources.
- [The governor with responsibility for collective worship attends assembly-planning meetings and periodically observes assemblies.](#)

Withdrawal

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship although there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. When requested and agreed upon, children will be able to spend some quiet time away from the Collective Worship.

Appendix 1 School Song

Put your hand in my hand and we'll walk this way together,
Put your feet in the prints of those who've gone before,
And together we'll learn and together make a difference
In our lives, in our school, in our World,

Thank you for the creatures and
The fields of restful grass
Thank you for the birds the flowers the trees
Thank you for the summer sun the life-restoring rain
Thank you lord for all that we can see
Chorus

Thank you for the people who have walked this way before
Thank you for the honest and the kind
Thank you for the people who have meant so much to me
Thank you for the friendships that I find
Chorus

Thank you for the vision and for those who drew the plans
Thank you for all those who built these walls
Thank you for the ceaseless love for all who stand here
Now
Thank you for being with us in our school
Chorus

Appendix 2 Call to Worship

- We have come as a school to
- encourage others throughout their journey at Weston
 - Help people achieve their goals
 - Worship God and uphold his values
 - Find everlasting friendships with people we love.

Appendix 3 School blessing

- May your friends be kind and trusting
- May your family be wise and honest
- May you find a place where you're happy
- Where you can rest and feel safe
- And when you have achieved respect, never forget to care for God's amazing creations.