

West Coker Church of England VC Primary School POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

RATIONALE

This policy should be taken and used as part of West Coker Church of England Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school.

To provide an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act of 1996, the Trust Deed of the School and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education.

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the ethos and values of the school

- i. to enable children to develop skills, attitudes and values and to achieve their full potential.
- ii. to enable children to become responsible, independent members of the community, showing understanding and sensitivity to others.

In keeping with these aims, Collective Worship at West Coker School is planned to:

- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide a worthwhile experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;
- provide opportunities for staff, pupils, families, and members of the local church and of the wider community to contribute to the life of the school;
- provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverence, celebration and reflection;
- provide pupils with a broad spectrum of Christian belief, values and practice;
- provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths and that at times will incorporate material drawn from other faith traditions.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at West Coker School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
 - building a sense of group identity;
 - encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
 - a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
 - to develop knowledge of the Bible, of Christian values and of the Christian year
- to develop a sense of comfortable ease in church

Collective Worship makes a major contribution to the spiritual and moral development of pupils by:

- providing them with opportunities to reflect on the breadth and richness of Christian and Anglican tradition;
- exploring beliefs - development of personal beliefs including religious beliefs, appreciation that people have individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives, appreciation of how beliefs contribute to personal identity;
- encouraging a sense of awe, wonder and mystery, e.g. through consideration of the natural world, mystery of human achievement;
- developing self-knowledge - awareness of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences, awareness of own developing identity, development of self-respect;
- exploring relationships - recognising the value and worth of each individual, developing a sense of community, building relationships with others;
- through Bible stories, other stories and examples from everyday life, develop an understanding of Christian Values and of right and wrong.

A candle is lit, at the time of prayer, and children are invited to either close their eyes or look in to the flame as the words are spoken. Children are aware that the candle represents the light of Jesus.

We employ the Window/Mirror/Door approach to reflection. We also ask the question 'What would Jesus do?' to promote compassion and application of values.

This is supported by the Roots and Shoots resource, which uses this model to focus on the core Christian values.

VALUES

Thinking about what makes West Coker distinctive, as a community, we have chosen 'Down Through the Roof' as our biblical story to illustrate our values. We refer back to this story at least once per half term.

In this story, four men lower a friend from a roof for Jesus to heal. This shows **trust, friendship and collaboration**.

Each man holds a rope.

These four ropes represent the four areas of Wisdom (**Endurance**), Community (**Trust and Friendship**), Hope (**Hope**) and Respect (**Compassion and Thankfulness**).

These are the Core Christian Values (in bold) that we believe are most important to our children, both as Christians and as well-equipped citizens of the future, and form the basis of our Values Collective Worship Cycle.

SPIRITUALITY

During the times of reflection, within worship, children are supported in developing their sense of spirituality (see Spirituality policy) to create their own understanding and perception of the world they live in.

ORGANISATION

A candle is lit, at the time of prayer, and children are invited to either close their eyes or look in to the flame as the words are spoken. Children are aware that the candle represents the light of Jesus.

For the Values-focused worship, led by the headteacher or the church, three candles are lit at the point of welcome, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Children are regularly reminded of the meaning of these three representations.

We employ the Window/Mirror/Door approach to reflection. We also ask the question 'What would Jesus do?' to promote compassion and application of values.

This is supported by the Roots and Shoots resource, which uses this model to focus on the core Christian values.

1. The programme of themes for acts of collective worship is co-ordinated by the Headteacher in consultation with teachers.
2. Whole School Worship:

The school gathers for three whole school assemblies each week. Staff and pupils may contribute music and selected work. These assemblies provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development. The headteacher leads one collective worship based on the core Christian Value. The children also gather weekly as a whole school for collective worship during a Singing Assembly. The content for this follows themes, special occasions, anniversaries and celebrations and worship through song. One assembly a week celebrates pupils' achievements, including application of the core values. There is one Key Stage collective worship each week led by the Key Stage leader. These worships have a topical/seasonal theme with the Leicester Diocese cycle as guidance. Collective Worship takes place in the local church on at least a half-termly basis and is led by one of the church leaders. These focus on the church calendar, such as Pentecost and Candlemas. Families, church members and members of the wider community are invited.

Collective Worship monitors set-up for worship and choose the hymn for the day. On a regular basis, children are to contribute to the planning and delivery of collective worship content.

3. The School Council have a Christian Council meeting once per half term to discuss how they can contribute to the planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

LINKS WITH THE CHURCH

As well as the services above, the school visits St Martin of Tours church for special services at key times in the school and Christian Calendar, such as Pentecost and Candlemas.

A representative from St Martin's Church leads alternate Values-led worship with the headteacher.

The Children's Leader volunteers in school and leads some RE teaching.

VISITORS

Church leaders are occasionally involved with the collective worship programme. Other Christian leaders and members of the community are invited to participate in collective worship. Sometimes, visitors offer a wider community focus, such as charities or the emergency services.

PARENTS

Parents are invited to attend church services throughout the year. They are also invited to our Celebration assemblies, each week, where we celebrate the children's achievements and worship together.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Collective Worship themes are monitored by the co-ordinator, by the Foundation Governor and other governors.

The headteacher keeps an evaluation of the Core Value Worship.

PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship.

Review July 2022