

WESTON HILLS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. Introduction

1.1. In accordance with the foundation of the school, collective worship will be of a wholly Christian character determined by consideration of the ages, abilities and backgrounds of the children. It will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, drawing attention to the Anglican heritage.

1.2. This policy was compiled by staff and agreed by the staff and Governing Body at their November meeting in the autumn term 1995. The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy. This policy has been reviewed and amended regularly since that date.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 Collective worship will bring together the children with a member of staff or whole staff as one community, with a corporate identity. It will create a bond of friendship and responsibility which will enhance the schools caring ethos.

2.2 Collective worship will introduce a spiritual dimension of life through the Christian tradition.

2.3 Collective worship will enable children to reflect upon the broad traditions of the Christian faith, for example, compassion, honesty, integrity, trust, self awareness, tolerance, sharing, respect, and learning from others, whilst observing the elements of the Anglican heritage (see appendix 1)

2.4 Collective worship will try to promote a sense of awe and wonder at the marvels of the natural world and foster respect for the world, delight in life itself, the exploration and expression of feelings, a sense of fellowship, sensitivity and respect for all, sympathy and compassion.

3. Entitlement

3.1 All pupils in attendance at this school will take part in a daily act of worship unless withdrawn by parental request.

3.2 A letter requesting withdrawal of a child from collective worship is required from a parent/carer.

4. Implementation

4.1 The whole school will come together three times a year in St. John's Church, four times a week in the hall and will have a class or key stage collective worship once a week. The themes for each week are laid out in our long term and medium term plans, which includes time for reflection, content of input and choices of music. This follows the Anglican calendar where possible, taking in special events such as saints' days.

Monday – 2.55–3.10 p.m. Whole school or Key Stage collective worship – FS & KS1 in the class and KS2 will gather in the hall and the themes will link to long term plan.

Tuesday – 2.55-3.10pm This act of worship will enable children to reflect upon hymns or songs which encapsulate Christian traditions. Children will sometimes be given the opportunity to choose their own hymns or songs and will be encouraged to give their reasons for their choice. The act of worship will close with the Lords Prayer or our school prayer. This act of worship will be led by Mrs Nicholls.

Wednesday – 2.55-3.10 p.m. This act of worship will be led by Rev. Charles Brown in the school hall covering themes around the Anglican year and the symbols of the Christian Church, (linked to the long term plan). Once a term Charles Brown will lead Collective Worship in St. Johns Church and the whole school attends.

Thursday – 2.55-3.10 p.m. This act of worship will be led by Sally Wilson (Bishops Visitor), Mrs Fitzgerald or Mrs Nicholls covering the themes (linked to the long term plan) - the cycle of the Anglican year, the central significance of the Eucharist, reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship. Also any themes on behalf of the Bishop. This will take place in the school hall.

Friday - 2.55-3.10 p.m. This whole school act of worship will be led by Mrs. Fitzgerald in the hall. Mrs. Fitzgerald leads the school in a summary of the week's theme, plus the usual reflection and private prayer period This is then followed by our celebration where we present "Star of the Week", for presentation, certificates for "Pupils of the Week" and "Excellent Work". Team points awarded that week are shared with the children and the winning team congratulated. Children that have represented the school in the previous week at sporting events are celebrated. Children who have achieved success in other areas e.g. charity fundraising, music or sports either in or out of school will also be celebrated. Children are often involved demonstrating a skill or talent, also any other certificates gained are awarded and celebrated. If time allows a theme may be explored.

4.2 When possible other clergy and other visitors are involved with or lead collective worship sessions by arrangement or invitation. They may follow the outlined themes if appropriate or introduce themes of their own choice or themes specifically requested.

4.3 We use a wide range of resources form websites and books. . We have access to St. John's Church on a regular basis, but now visit less frequently due to the school moving to a new site and it being too small to accommodate everyone.

4.4 Themes selected relate to the Lincolnshire RE syllabus, the Lectionary year and the Christian beliefs stated in the Open the Door booklet, SEAL materials and Sermons4kids.com. Some themes also encompass other curriculum areas and issues arising during the year of a local, national or international nature. The Songs of Praise worship contributes to the music curriculum and collective worship is cross curricular, contributing to PHSE and other curriculum areas as appropriate.

4.5 Suggested themes are written in the Framework for Collective Worship. .

4.6 Equal opportunities are enhanced throughout collective worship sessions by involving all children on a regular basis by valuing each and every child's contribution and by positively discriminating in favour of less able children in areas of strength to enhance their self-esteem and their status within the school community.

4.7 In the event of a teacher requesting withdrawal from collective worship, this policy would be renewed to incorporate appropriate measures.

4.8 Prayers are also said at lunchtime before our meal.

4.9 Each class presents in a Collective Worship parents are invited to attend. Parents are also invited to our whole school Harvest Collective Worship, and Leavers Service.

5.0 We also have themed Collective Worship linked to our themed weeks, e.g. Science, Maths, World Week, Europe Week, Bird Week, Food Week, Road Safety Week, etc.

5. Background documentation

5.1 This policy was drawn up with regard to the Lincolnshire RE syllabus, the lectionary year, the guidelines given in the 'Open the Door' document, published by the National Society, and guidelines given by the Board of Education for the Lincoln Diocese.

6. Review

This policy was reviewed in Autumn term 2003 to take into account changes in pupil numbers and accommodation.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2005.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Summer 2007, and will be reviewed in Summer 09, earlier if situations change.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2007 with a change of personnel – it will be reviewed in Autumn 2009.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Summer 2008 – it will be reviewed in Summer 2010.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2009 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2011.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2011 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2013.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2013 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2015

This policy was reviewed and updated in autumn 2014 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2016.

This policy was reviewed and updated in Autumn 2016 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2018.

APPENDIX 1

Below are elements of the Anglican heritage of Worship which we draw upon in our School Collective worship.

1. Using the bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
2. Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix - symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection).
3. Observing the cycle of the Anglican year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
4. Recognising the central significance of the Eucharist, while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship.
5. Using collects as a focus for short acts of worship.
6. Identifying a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms which creates a framework for worship within school.
7. Learning traditional responses and prayers.
8. Providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
9. Recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism.
10. Experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race, and religious opinions.
11. Sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, the celebration of shared values and beliefs.

Appendix 2

FRAMEWORK FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

(Themes that may be covered)

<u>Autumn Term</u>	<u>Spring Term</u>	<u>Summer Term</u>
New beginnings		
New things/Starting	New Life/Spring	Confidence/Assurance
Faith/Hope	Conscience/Duty	Sikh-Baisaiki
Friends/Helpers	Good to be me	Celebrations/Gifts
Getting on/Falling out	Talents/Skills	Light/Colour
Christian – Harvest	Going for Goals	Explorers/Discoveries
Neighbours/Giving	Courage/Resolution	Families/Communities
Leadership/Inspiration	Journeys/The Future	Relationships
Hindu/Sikh – Diwali	Wisdom/Understanding	Secrets/The Unknown
Love/Care	Christian/Muslim- Lent/Ramadan	Changes
No to Bullying	Muslim/Eid	Pleasure/Happiness
Names/Organisations	Consideration/Respect	Sorrow/Worry
Jewish – Hannukah	Protecting/Guarding	The Earth/Nature
Service/Unselfishness	Teaching/Guiding	Patience/Reliability
Determination/Perseverance	Homes/Security	Listening/Learning
Christian – Advent	Forgiveness	Trust/Promises
Christian – Christmas	Christian – Easter	Beauty/Art

Links also with our PSHE and Citizenship themes, also themes from SEAL materials.