

Policy:	Collective Worship Policy June 2023	
Status:	Non-statutory	
Review Date:	3 yearly–June 2026	

Introduction:

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Long Whatton C of E Primary School.

Our Mission Statement - Our aspiration is that all children should develop intellectually, creatively, physically, spiritually and morally to become highly motivated, confident and independent learners, achieving high standards in all areas of the curriculum with well-developed social skills and respect for others.

As a church school at the heart of the local community, our Christian Vision underpins our work and is fundamental to our relationships and our commitment to ensure equality for all pupils.

We aim to reach each child's potential in a safe, happy and caring learning environment with an atmosphere of support, challenge and encouragement within a wide ranging curriculum.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values, which are our foundation to our school vision.

Our Vision - Live, Learn, Grow and Be Thankful

'Continue to live our lives in God, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness'. Colossians 2:7

We want our children to leave Long Whatton able to live their best lives, be enthusiastic learners, grow into their full potential and be thankful for what they receive all underpinned by our Christian values.

Collective Worship plays an important and integral part in the life of our school. It is a unique and special time in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine. Collective Worship aims to help children develop their character through 'The Long Whatton Way.'

The Long Whatton Way

'The Long Whatton Way' aims to develop the character of our pupils, enabling them to understand, care about and act on core ethical values and gain a responsibility for self and others whilst also gaining key character traits that prepares them for the world of work.

Children build their character traits through five skill sets; 'More than just me' 'Thinking for myself' 'Flying High' 'I can do it!' and 'Christian Values.'

RATIONALE – LEGAL

- The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable, but the legal requirement in Anglican Schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, *'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'*
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

Collective Worship' is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The Church of England request that Christian schools ensure Collective Worship is:

Inclusive - worship should be accessible to all. Children and adults should be given the space and opportunities to ask questions, exploring and responding to a theme in a safe and welcoming environment.

Invitational - an 'open door' approach to worship ensuring all know they are welcome. Prayer is invitational and provides an opportunity for reflection or an individual's personal response. A focus on the spiritual life of the school's unique community.

Inspirational - Worship should inspire and motivate both pupils and adults to reflect on their place in the wider community and become courageous advocates of their causes. It should encourage and promote the love of asking big questions facilitating awe and wonder.

Collective Worship at Long Whatton:

- Brings children and adults together to engage in an act as a community.
- Allows time to express praise and thanks or be still and reflect.
- Offer thought provoking questions - exploring the big questions of life and responding to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness to become well rounded global citizens.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values, attitudes and special times in the Christian calendar.
- Celebrate self successes and each other's joys and challenges.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children and adults to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.

- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship at Long Whatton develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Collective Worship are to: -

- Share and explore the school's vision, christian values and how they relate to the school community and us as individuals within it.
- To help children understand faith and its place within our school and the wider world encountering Jesus' teachings, biblical stories and nature of God.
- Enable children and adults to recognise, celebrate and reflect on anglican traditions and festivals.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- Encourage, in both children and adults, a thoughtful and reflective attitude and opportunities to grow spiritually.
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness and raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- Enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- To affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility and celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- Enable children to build leadership skills by individually or collaboratively planning, leading and evaluating collective worship to improve practice.
- Introduce children to wider religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that: -

- The Foundation of the school is honored and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- The Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- An appropriate inspector carries out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The Collective Worship Coordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The coordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place by the appointed date.

ORGANISATION

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the School Hall in shared space for the whole community to come together. Five Acts of Worship take place each week following a planned theme. The themes are carefully planned by the Co-ordinator and reflect the needs of the school incorporating 'The Big Frieze', key Christian calendar dates and church colours. 'The Big Frieze' helps children to visualise where in the bible the scripture or biblical story is from and what happened previously. Each half term there is a focus on a different christian value and key word from the school's vision. Biblical stories, hymns, songs and music are chosen specifically to a line with the christian value and key themes and events of the week.

Each week begins with a global day/key theme to ensure children develop a breadth of knowledge and understanding of the wider world to become well rounded global citizens. Secondly, the local reverend is invited to lead a biblical worship relating to the half termly focus area of The big Frieze or a drama retelling of the important teachings from the bible. Each week, children also learn about the deep theological rooting of the school vision and the half termly christian value. To provide opportunities for children to learn from the world and develop respect for their own and others beliefs the school engage in weekly Picture News. This not only provides opportunities for discussion and strengthens challenge but inspires children to learn from one another. To conclude collective Worship children's personal and collaborative achievements are celebrated focusing on how they have followed and lived the 'Long Whatton Way.'

Daily worships ensure the same structure is used to familiarise, welcome and enhance the sense of community and unisonship. Using the gather, engage, respond and SEND approach both children and adults are familiar with the structure resulting in a greater openness to ask questions and share reflections.

Weekly Collective Worship includes one each of the following:

- Global day/Christian calendar/Significant days/Wider religious celebrations and festivals.
- Anglican Clergy christian teachings, practice and biblical stories.
- School vision or christian value focus.
- Picture News (British values, World news and recent events.)
- Whole School Honors Assembly/Hymn/song and Act of Worship.

Parents and carers are encouraged to attend their child's performances, worships and Honors assemblies. They are also invited to attend and participate in the retelling of biblical stories and to observe the planned worships led by the Collective worship Group.

Parents and carers are also warmly invited to attend three special services held at Long Whatton Church to celebrate Harvest, Cribs and Carols and Easter. These are carefully planned and provide an opportunity for the wider community to come together as one.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship at times. Clergy from Long Whatton church attend regularly, building secure links between the school and the church.

Class teachers attend Acts of Worship with their class and are offered opportunities to contribute to discussion and for prayer or reflection.

Collective worship groups are active members of daily worship helping to set up, direct and lead parts each day. They have received training on the importance of collective worship, its structure and how to personalise it to your school. They have also learnt how to effectively plan, organise, lead and deliver worships.

Pupil voice is an essential and cherished part at Long Whatton and demonstrated through the collective Worship group, School Council and Eco Council who embody and promote the school's vision and values to both the school and wider community.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP:

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the worship/assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation.

Music is played at the beginning and end of the worship/assembly. One piece is selected each week which reflects and enhances the theme. Pupils' attention is drawn to it and a simple explanation/description may be given or referred to within the engage.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious nature may be used whilst personal anecdotes from pupils, teachers and visitors are effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of sources including Fishy Music and Out of the Ark. One is used at each worship, relative to the theme. Some are learned by heart and actions or makaton are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school provides opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer is always invitational but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and the school prayer may be used. Three candles are lit and provide a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader, in order to concentrate pupils' response.

The invitational open "Jesus light of the world be with us today. Amen " celebrates Jesus' presence at every worship and grounds the community in its Christian foundation. The close, "Let us bless the Lord," and response "thanks be to God" ensure that we show gratitude for our shared time that day.

Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama and demonstration.

CONTENT

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Plans and schedules are approved by the Head and ratified by the Governing Body. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued. The coordinator collaborates with other members of staff to discuss themed music, hymns and biblical stories.

THEMES

They may: -

- Celebrate or reflect on the christian calendar for example 'Easter' or 'Eucharist.'
- Reflect on Jesus' teachings and biblical stories.
- Teach about wider religions, global days, British values, news in the world today.
- Be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'Valuing the Earth.'
- Themes that reflect the needs of the school or our core school values and vision.
- Celebration worship to showcase the achievements of individuals and collaborative groups within the community.

Themes are closely related to the school community.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. 'Caring' = 'Florence Nightingale' = 'Victorians'. Worships/Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

N.B. No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

RESOURCES

Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.
Collective Worship Rota, key themes and information.
Prayer Table depicting school vision and christian values.
Three candles representing 'The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'
Selection of religious artifacts.
Children's Bible.
Cross and rainbow to symbolise new beginnings.
Selection of worship topic books for teachers.
Selection of worship song books.
Worship box/resources for biblical worships.
Piano/Instruments/CD player/laptop and projector.

RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Act of Worship themes are circulated to all teachers and displayed in the Hall and Staffroom next to the rota.

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the Designated Governor for Collective Worship through: -

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives.

- observation of children's' attentiveness and level of interest.
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- Pupil voice - Collective Worship Group observations and recommendations.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In the teaching and learning of Collective Worship, all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Every individual has the right to equal opportunities regardless of their gender, ethnicity or physical/mental ability. We ensure the individual is educated in an environment where she/he feels respected and valued: - ensuring equal access to equipment; delivering a curriculum free from stereotyped ideas; not using sexist or racist language and having equally high expectations of children regardless of their gender.

WITHDRAW

Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

MULTICULTURALISM

A variety of multicultural resources are available throughout the school. Stories are shared and the major faith religious festivals celebrated. Tolerance and understanding of other religions and their cultures is encouraged and the programs of study followed in R.E. e.g. Hindus, Jews, Sikhs and Muslims.

ROLE OF Collective WORSHIP COORDINATOR

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the governing body.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up worship/assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is included in the School Development Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Long Whatton C of E Primary School. It will be reviewed, by the Governors, the Head Teacher/Collective Worship Coordinator in conjunction with all staff.