



"Living and Learning through Faith, Hope and Love"

**WEETON ST MICHAEL'S C.E.
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

**SEPTEMBER 2020
REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 2021**

Weeton St Michael's CE Primary School Mission Statement:

“Living and learning through Faith, Hope and Love.”

This policy was written in 2020 and outlines the practise of Collective Worship at Weeton St Michael's, Church of England Primary School. Weeton St Michael's School believes that every child is precious and each is valued and respected as a child of God. Collective Worship is an essential part of the nurturing of each child's spiritual growth.

1. Fundamentals

(a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

The school's ethos statement and Trust Deed:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

(b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Ethos Statement through our Mission Statement (see above) and the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

(c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and it is an essential part of all pupils' spiritual education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at other times of the day. Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, personal achievements of pupils and staff, as well as those things which any community would ordinarily celebrate, eg:- the birth of a baby, weddings etc.

(d) The Church of England Heritage

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church. Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of all human beings as children of God;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance for life;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

(e) Links with local Churches

Use will be made within the provision of the Education Acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church, other Church of England places of worship or other Churches who are members of Churches Together in Britain and Northern Ireland, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education. We will regularly visit the local parish church for acts of Collective Worship and the local vicar and/or other Anglican clergy will lead worship on a weekly basis in our school.

(f) Collective Worship and assembly

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, eg important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children from assembly do not apply.

(g) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

(h) The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

(i) Worship and Religious Education are kept largely separate.

(g) Prayer Spaces

In order to deepen the children's experiences of prayer we offer the experience of Prayer Spaces events. Themes include Advent, Easter or Thankfulness and Praise. Different prayer stations focus on a different element of the focus theme. The stations are clearly defined by using gazebos, fabric and props. A calm and reflective atmosphere is created with special lighting and candles. Each station is facilitated by an adult. These include volunteers from the congregation of St Michael's Weeton, Clergy, parents of children in school and other people of faith known to us. The adults facilitating the sessions follow a plan which they adapt to suit the age of each group of children.

2. Responsibility for the policy

The Collective Worship and Religious Education Leader is responsible for the co-ordination of the policy and will work with Governors and local clergy to implement it.

3. Statement of broad aims

Collective Worship should enable the whole school to:

- Explore those questions which are important to everyone
- Encounter a faith which is alive
- Experience the joy of celebrating God's love.

The Eucharist will on occasion be part of the provision for collective worship. The Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship, and it is natural that the governors, clergy and staff of Church schools should consider the opportunity of introducing the Eucharist to children. The sacrament offers a special opportunity to integrate the school more closely with the life of the parish Church and the parish Church with the school, giving the children the opportunity to experience the heart of the Church's worship.

4. Organisation and Delivery

(a) The agreed pattern of worship is as follows:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Location</i>
Monday	9:00 am	Whole School Worship	Rev Ivan Walters	Church
Tuesday	9:00 am	Class Worship	Teaching staff	Class/Hall
Wednesday	9:00 am	Whole School Worship	Headteacher/Children	School hall
Thursday	9.00 am	Practise and Praise	Teaching staff	School hall
Friday	2.30 pm	Celebrate and Praise	Headteacher/Teaching Staff	School hall

5. Withdrawal

The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of our school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or RE (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of our school. Jesus is the centre of our life in school and is therefore at the heart of everything we do.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:14-16)

6. Covid-19 guidance

While DfE and PHE guidance is that children should be taught and kept within consistent “bubbles” to aid social distancing measures there will be a variance to the Whole School worship arrangements. Children will Worship together in their ‘bubble’ each day, following the planning and Values rolling programme.