



## Collective Worship Policy

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### Introduction

Collective Worship is central to the life of Weston Turville CE School. It offers pupils and staff the opportunity to reflect on values, issues, and experiences in the context of our distinctive Christian vision:

*“Inspire, Believe, Achieve – Together”*

Like a tree planted in rich soil, we strive to create an environment where every child can grow, flourish, and reach their full potential—both personally and academically. Rooted in Christian values, we nurture curiosity, resilience, and a love of learning, encouraging children to branch out with confidence and strength.

Our six core values form the foundation of all we do: **Respect, Honesty, Perseverance, Fairness, Kindness, and Trust.**

Through these values, we guide children to develop strong roots of integrity and wisdom, equipping them to face challenges and embrace opportunities with self-belief and determination. In our school community, we grow together—caring for one another, celebrating one another’s successes, and lifting each other through challenges.

We draw on the theological narrative of **Jeremiah 17:8** to understand human flourishing. It teaches us that when our roots are deep in Christian hope, we can remain fruitful and unafraid, even during times of challenge or 'drought' in our lives.

*“They are like trees growing near a stream and sending out roots to the water. They are not afraid when hot weather comes, because their leaves stay green; they have no worries when there is no rain; they keep on bearing fruit.”*

This reminds us that with strong foundations, the right support, and perseverance, every child has the potential to thrive.

Our worship is the heartbeat of school life, shaping our attitudes, behaviour and sense of community. All members of the school community are warmly invited to take part.

## Purpose of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship provides pupils and staff with opportunities to: - Celebrate Christian seasons, festivals, and school values - Experience prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection - Grow in understanding and participation in prayer and Christian worship - Explore spiritual, moral and ethical questions - Develop a reflective approach to life and learning - Build a sense of belonging in a community rooted in our Christian vision - Experience a variety of worship styles and traditions - Participate actively through planning, leading and evaluating worship - Feel safe and affirmed regardless of faith background - Encounter the Christian faith, including its Trinitarian nature, through story, symbol, song, and prayer

## Theological and Educational Foundations

Our worship is theologically rooted in the Church of England's liturgical tradition and inspired by the seasons of the Church year. It provides a means of engaging with the drama of Jesus Christ and the larger biblical narrative. It supports spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development in line with the Church of England's Vision for Education.

## Pattern of Collective Worship

Worship occurs in a range of groupings and settings, including whole-school assemblies, class-based worship, and special services in our parish church, **St. Mary the Virgin**. Clergy from the church visit and lead worship once a week, helping to sustain the strong partnership between school and parish. We observe key festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, as well as significant school events like Remembrance and the Leavers' Service. Worship is planned to ensure meaningful engagement and reflection beyond the worship itself.

A typical weekly pattern includes:

**Monday** – Whole School Worship (Headteacher)

**Tuesday** – Key Stage Worship (Teachers)

**Wednesday** – Whole School Worship (Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher)

**Thursday** – Class Worship (Teachers)

**Friday** – Celebration Worship (Headteacher/class/clergy)/ Class Assembly (parents invited)

## Leadership and Participation

Worship is led by a variety of contributors, including the headteacher, staff, clergy from our parish church, visitors, and pupils. Pupils are encouraged to plan and lead worship throughout the year. All leaders, including visitors, are briefed to ensure worship remains consistent with our values and inclusive for all.

## Planning and Content

Worship is carefully planned around our school vision and associated values. It draws on a wide range of resources, including the Bible, music, visual imagery, drama, poetry, and personal reflection. Our themes include justice, forgiveness, courage, and compassion. Prayer is an integral part of worship and is offered in a way that invites but does not compel participation.

**Appropriate elements of worship include:** - Lighting a candle - Reading the Bible - Singing hymns and songs - Creative silence and reflection - Use of drama, story, or video - Prayers written by pupils - Use of artefacts or symbols

**Prayer in Worship:** - A variety of prayer forms are used, including spontaneous, written, and structured prayers - Pupils are invited (never compelled) to participate

Examples of prayers used include:

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our **School Creed:**

*This is our school.*

*Let peace dwell here.*

*Let the rooms be full of contentment.*

*Let love abide here.*

*Love of one another,*

*Love of all people,*

*Love of life itself,*

*And love of God.*

*Let us remember That as many hands build a house,*

*So many hearts make a school.*

**Trinitarian Candle-Lighting Prayer:** > *We will light three lights for the Trinity of love – God above us, God beside us, God beneath us. The beginning, the end, the everlasting one.*

Prayer is often introduced with invitational language such as: - "I am going to say a prayer—join in if you would like to." - "Let us take a moment of quiet for reflection, thought, or prayer." - "Christians believe that..."

*A FORM OF PRAYER FOR USE IN A CLASSROOM*

1<sup>st</sup> Leader

I will light a light

In the name of the maker

Who lit the world

And breathed the breath of life for me

*A candle is lit*

2<sup>nd</sup> Leader

I will light a light

In the name of the Son

Who saved the world

And stretched out his hand for me

*A candle is lit*

3<sup>rd</sup> Leader

I will light a light

In the name of the Spirit

Who encircles the world

And blesses my soul with longing

*A candle is lit*

All

We will light three lights

For the Trinity of love

God above us

God beside us

God beneath us

**The beginning**

The end

The everlasting one

*A moment of silence is kept*

## Inclusivity and Respect

Collective Worship at Weston Turville CE School is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring. While rooted in Christian tradition, it is respectful of pupils and adults of all faiths and none. Pupils who do not wish to participate in prayer are encouraged to use the time for quiet reflection. All are valued and welcomed.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship is regularly reviewed through observation, pupil feedback, staff reflection and governor monitoring. A **Collective Worship Monitoring Sheet** is used to record observations and evaluate the effectiveness, inclusivity, and spiritual impact of worship. Feedback is used to develop the quality, relevance, and impact of worship across the school.

## Legal Requirements

As a Church of England school, we meet the legal requirement to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Our provision is consistent with the school's Trust Deed. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from worship.

*Requests for withdrawal should be granted without delay. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety. Children should not be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g. reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.*

## The role of the Governing Board

- Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship, and take account of the policy and guidelines of the Diocese
- In Church schools, governors must take account of the legal requirements, any school Trust Deed and guidelines issued by the Diocese
- Governors must be actively involved and familiar with all documentation regarding Collective Worship issued on their behalf and be actively involved in the process of Collective Worship development within the school
- Governors should ensure that Collective Worship is appropriately reviewed as part of the school improvement plan and be actively involved in the review process
- Governors should be aware of the requirement under SIAMS for the inspection of Collective Worship
- It is a statutory requirement that a school prospectus includes details of Collective Worship provided at the school. These details should inform parents of the parental right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. The arrangements and provision made for those children withdrawn from worship should be clearly stated

## Conclusion

Collective Worship at Weston Turville CE School is a vital expression of our Christian vision. It nourishes the spiritual life of the school, builds community, and helps every individual flourish in wisdom, compassion and hope.