

WESTON TURVILLE CE SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT:  
TO PURSUE WISDOM WITHIN A CHRISTIAN ETHOS

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Co-ordinator	Ms K Brooks
Policy Produced by	Mr G. Norris
Policy Adopted by staff	January 1998
Adopted by Governors	January 1998
Reviewed	Spring 2011, Autumn 2016
Next Review Date	Autumn 2020

Collective worship is part of the school's broad and balanced curriculum, providing opportunities to acquire knowledge and develop skills as well as promoting positive attitudes and values. It is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and reflects the broad tradition of Christian belief. Through the organisation of our worship each week we try to take account of the differing ages, abilities and backgrounds of our pupils.

Acts of worship are held daily in the school. They last for approximately 15 minutes and are organised for key stage, classes or the whole school. Pupils do not attend worship if parents ask for their child to be withdrawn.

Monday	Whole School	Head
Tuesday	Junior Worship Infant Classroom Worship	Teachers alternate Teachers
Wednesday	Whole School 'Open the Book'	Local community/St Mary's Church
Thursday	Infant Worship Junior Classroom Worship	Teachers alternate Teachers
Friday	Whole School	Class/Head/Priest in Charge

### AIMS

#### To consider spiritual issues:

Childhood experiences of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, reverence, and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Collective worship should underline the spiritual concerns of humanity such as matters of life and death, the purpose of life and lifetime choices.

#### To consider religious issues:

Collective worship should facilitate the exploration of the pupils' and other people's beliefs, and provide an introduction to the writings of other religious people and leaders. It should also provide opportunities for pupils to express their faith in a school setting if they so wish.

#### To consider moral issues:

Moral issues should be explored rather than imposed or used as judgements. Collective Worship should provide an opportunity for moral issues to be considered as a whole and for pupils to stand back and reflect on what is happening in their world.

#### To develop community spirit:

Collective worship should be used to bring large or small groups within the school together

and promote the idea that we are all part of a community.

To promote a common ethos, shared values and positive attitudes:

Issues concerned with relationships, standards of behaviour or equal opportunities for example, should be examined. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the common ethos of the school and the quality of school life. Our chosen Christian values are trust, fairness, self-belief, kindness, respect and honesty.

To develop an awareness of other cultures:

It is an opportunity to raise issues and awareness of the diversity of other cultures; race, colour, creed, environmental diversity and lifestyles.

APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP INCLUDE:

- introductory music to create a mood or focus
- the singing of hymns or songs
- the reading of a short passage of Scripture
- appreciation of a piece of music
- hearing a talk or story
- taking part in a prayer
- the use of artefacts
- television, video or powerpoint presentation
- drama and role play
- the questioning of pupils
- opportunities for quiet reflection

SPIRITUALITY

Reading or telling a story is concerned with concepts and ideas. Spirituality is concerned with feelings. We aim to help the children develop capacities and skills which enable them to explore more fully their own feelings and experiences, and those of other people. Most often this is done in moments of calm and peaceful thought or stillness.

The development of Spirituality is concerned with promoting:

- the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- the skill of being mentally still, and to be able to concentrate on the present moment
- the ability to use all one's senses
- the awareness of and enjoyment in expressing inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- inner peace

Most commonly spirituality focuses on special places, special objects and special people.

## ORGANISATION

Collective worship is planned at the beginning of each term by:

The Headteacher  
The Deputy Head  
The Music Co-ordinator

Themes last for half a term or a shorter period of time depending on the time of year. Themes may be topical such as specific festivals or occasions, or general/non time specific. Flexibility is retained to capitalise on occasions/events/occurrences which arise at short notice. Songs or hymns support the theme where applicable and a list of hymns for the term is made available to facilitate productive Hymn Practices.

## THE ETHOS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Children should not feel coerced into joining in with activities which are at odds with their own faith or beliefs. Children are not required to join in with songs or prayers when these, for example, involve worshipping a deity in which they do not believe. However, children should be encouraged whenever possible to take an active role.

It is not appropriate to say:

- "Put your hands together and close your eyes".
- "Let us pray, ....." and expect all children to participate.
- "We believe that ...."

It is appropriate to say:

- "I am going to say a prayer, join in if you would like to".
- "Bow your heads for a moment of quiet/stillness/thought/opportunity for prayer"
- "Christians/Buddhists/Muslims etc believe that ..... and I am going to say a prayer that they use".

## PRAYER

A variety of prayers are used in Collective Worship. Sometimes the children write their own and share them, sometimes the Worship Leader says a prayer and sometimes everyone says a group prayer. Examples of prayers can be found at the end of the policy.

## RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

All parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This is stated in the School's prospectus.

## MONITORING

Collective Worship is evaluated on a regular basis to ensure standards are being maintained or improved and that what takes place is perceived as relevant and appropriate to pupils and staff.

## CRITERIA FOR MONITORING

### How does the assembly meet the legal requirements?

- is it broadly Christian?
- is it wholly or mainly Christian?
- is it broadly in the tradition of another religion?
- does it contain elements of several faiths?
- is it non religious?
- does it contribute to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural development of children?
- was it appropriate to the ages, abilities, backgrounds of the children?

### How successful was the assembly?

- were the children actively involved? passively involved?
- were they interested in the content?
- did the content or presentation provoke thoughtful responses?
- did the children appear to learn from the experience?
- was the atmosphere created appropriate?
- did the children enjoy the assembly?

A COLLECTIVE WORSHIP MONITORING SHEET

Date:

Venue:

Time:

Nature of group: WHOLE/INFANT/JUNIOR/YEAR

Led by:                      Observed by:

Topic/Theme:

Was the aim made clear?

Was the content appropriate, relevant to the group, accessible, linked to the moral and social dimension or to other areas of the curriculum?

How would you define the religious dimensions?

BROADLY CHRISTIAN/MAINLY CHRISTIAN/BROADLY OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITION/CONTAINING ELEMENTS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS/NON-RELIGIOUS

Were resources used effectively? Were opportunities overlooked?

Did pupils participate? How? Were there opportunities for reflection, stillness, quietness, prayer?

What was your overall impression? Was an appropriate atmosphere developed? How could the session have been improved?

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and  
the glory,  
now and for ever.

Amen.

## **A 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.



## **A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, union;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## 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*