Collective Worship Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of issue:</th>
<th>Date of next review:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 2018</strong></td>
<td><strong>September 2020</strong></td>
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Copies of this policy are kept:

**School Network/School Website**

Person responsible for updating this plan: Head Teacher & RE Coordinator

Ratified by Pupils and Personnel Committee

**Walesby C of E Governing Body  5th March 2018**
This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the head teacher, collective worship co-ordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

Walesby C of E Primary is a VC Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement (stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and DfES circular 1/94) that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be ‘in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England’ and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and distinctly Christian, containing some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions. We share with our children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, Trust, Forgiveness, Mercy, Humility, Courage and Integrity, Respect For Life, Value Of An Individual, Justice, Co-Operation and Service, Honesty and Truthfulness.

This is in line with the Living Worship strand of the Southwell Diocesan vision ‘Joining together in the Transforming Mission of God’ and ‘Growing Disciples Wider, Younger, Deeper.’

It is our aim at Walesby Church of England Primary School that worship should have a clear purpose in:

- reaffirm and practise the Christian values of the school community
- value all humanity and worth as God’s image bearers
- value our humanity and worth as God’s image bearers
- foster concern for the needs of others and safeguard creation
- relate positively to themselves, other people and the world around them and God
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

**Our Mission Statement**

Together, we love, learn and grow with God.
Our Vision

All our children are happy, healthy and successful learners determined to achieve the very best they can;
All of our children are independent, confident and creative thinkers
All of our children make at least good progress in order to attain as highly as they can
None of our children will under achieve
All our children are given a wide range of opportunities to stay healthy in mind and body;
All of our children are valued as individuals within the caring Christian ethos
Our school will be the hub of an exciting, safe and stimulating learning community, where our families, their children, our staff, governors and local community work in partnership to achieve outstanding provision for our learners
Every child is well prepared for the next steps in their learning
All our children understand the importance of belonging to, feeling valued by and making a contribution to a cohesive, vibrant Christian community and are well prepared for life in modern Britain;

We follow The Walesby Way

Our Christian Values

Love, Friendship, Kindness, Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Courage, underpin ‘The Walesby Way’

Along with these, the British Values of Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect & Tolerance of those of different faiths & beliefs, are embedded within our school.

At Walesby Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship offers a space to all

| Spiritual       | to think about God                              |
|                | to make a response to God                       |
|                | to explore a relationship with God              |
|                | to enjoy being in the presence of God           |
|                | to contemplate the awesomeness of God           |
|                | to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God |
|                | to listen to God                                |
|                | to get a sense of things unseen                 |
|                | to explore personal belief                      |
|                | to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together |
|                | to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them |
|                | to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture |
|                | to wonder                                       |
|                | to gain inspiration                             |
|                | to receive a challenge to live differently      |
|                | to rejoice in being unique and precious         |
|                | to simply be                                    |

| Educational    | to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism |
|                | to learn about the faith of the local church community |
|                | to participate in marking important features of the church calendar |
|                | to explore Christian values                     |
|                | to use stillness and quietness                  |
|                | to have a quiet moment in a busy day            |
|                | to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements    |
|                | to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum |

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

| Inclusive       | … whatever their age, aptitude or background |
|                | … where the integrity of each is respected |
|                | … enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs |
|                | … sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community. |

| Equal Opportunities | that all learners are of equal value, we recognise and respect difference |
we foster positive attitudes and relationships, and a shared sense of cohesion and belonging
we aim to reduce and remove inequalities and barriers that already exist
we consult and involve widely
society as a whole should benefit

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place in the hall. It starts at 9am on a Monday and 8.50a.m on all other days except Thursday which starts at 2.30pm. Collective Worship is timetabled to last between 20 and 30 minutes.

All children attend (FS2 initially phased as the Autumn term develops)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Person Leading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Head Teacher. (first Monday of every month led by Rev. A Alls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Class Teacher Rota/Visitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Class Teacher Rota/Visitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Singing Praise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Head Teacher Magic Mentions</td>
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We have a Collective Worship Assembly Team who throughout each half term lead on at least 1 day of Collective Worship. The children interpret a value or story from the Bible and share their work with the whole school. Children will prepare the hall and prepare power points and songs ready for the whole school coming together.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Each week there is a planned theme for Collective worship based on the Church of England’s Christian values for schools/The Fruits of the Spirit document 2015. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The Content of Collective Worship

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

Story, Music, Power point images, Poetry, Drama, Puppets, Games, Dance, Questioning, Singing and Praying.

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship.
We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints’ days.
We use liturgical colours for our worship focus.
We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
Anglican prayers and hymns we use include the Lord’s Prayer.

Meditation and silence are used

Using Anglican sentences and responses (e.g. we takeout the Bible and think about God the father….)

Although worship will emphasise a divine presence and concern for all the world and its inhabitants, it will not presume that all participants have a religious faith or the same faith. We will use inclusive language and in the context of prayer will encourage the children to say ‘Amen’ at the end if they agree.
The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or joining in with our ritual:

We take out the Bible and open it as we think about…
God the Father, who teaches us through His word.

We take out the cross and put it in the centre as we think about…
God’s Son, Jesus, who loves us.

We take out the candle and light it as we think about…
God the Holy Spirit, who guides us.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold out hands to receive)
And the love of God (cross arms on chest)
And the friendship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands with neighbours)

Be with us all, evermore.
Amen

The management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. Our Foundation Governor, Reverend Zoe Burton, is named to ensure that Collective Worship is consistent with the Trust Deed and is of good quality. The governors have a duty to approve and review this policy.

The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Mrs A Taylor. We liaise with Reverend. Z Burton and Reverend. A. Alls, from St. Edmunds church in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept in a file in the main hall. Values of the week are displayed in all classrooms throughout school, in the main office entrance and in the main hall with a Bible quote.

Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

There is a daily reflection of what the value means to a child/children in the collective worship evaluation book. This is visited by a class each day throughout the week and thoughts recorded by individuals if they wish to do so.

Governors monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body. Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

Role of Collective Worship Co-ordinator

- Communication between RE and collective worship co-ordinators
- Identifying and recording themes and resources
- Support for colleagues on delivery of collective worship
- Identify training needs
- Monitoring acts of worship and evaluating impact. We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council and Re Co-ordinator regularly seek the views of the Children.
- Monitoring and updating termly the SIAS inspection action plan.
- Ensuring all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond Collective worship
Role of Minister with Pastoral Oversight

The Reverend Zoe Burton is a visitor to our Collective Acts of Worship as work load permits. She oversees 12 parishes and leads a team of eight ministers, including Reverend Anna Alls. Reverend Anna leads Church mice and joins the school for Collective Worship once a month. Reverend Zoe Burton takes part in our child led services in St Edmund’s Church and enjoys class visits, offering pastoral support, strategic support and faith to the school community.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Walesby Church of England Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. At the end of the school year, our Year 6 children join other schools from the diocese at Southwell Minster for Collective Worship.

Visitors to the school are welcome and are invited to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Edmund’s Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending, contributing and delivering the key Christian events within the Christian Calendar (Harvest, Christmas and Easter Service). The church is also visited as part of topic work to enhance children’s knowledge and understanding.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

At Walesby Church of England Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time, unless requested.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Walesby Church of England Primary School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Conclusion

At Walesby Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our belief in ‘the importance of each pupil as an individual and that we are all God’s Children. In this way, the pupils remain at the heart of everything we do.’

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values and the teachings of Jesus which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Together, we love, learn and grow with God.

Review date for the policy September 2020