

Wisbech St. Mary Church of England Academy



Policy Name: **Collective Worship Policy**

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Ratified by LGB:

Date:

Review Date:

Wisbech St Mary CE Academy

Introduction

This policy outlines the purpose, content and organisation of collective worship taught at Wisbech St Mary.

Contents of Collective Worship

- Examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- Stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books;
- Response to key local, national and international events;
- Providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- Consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere - not necessarily with easy/definitive answers;
- Putting things into practice - e.g. supporting charities;
- Providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer;
- Celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- Performances or presentations from members of the school community;
- Input from visiting speakers/experts.

To be meaningful for pupils collective worship enables them to reflect on:

- What it means to be a human being
- Questions of meaning, purpose and value
- The best that human beings can be - inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated through their actions, lives and qualities. Examples will come from religious and non-religious sources.
- Personal beliefs and values

The collective worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy.

How collective worship will enrich the experiences of pupils

- Enable pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole;
- Reinforce a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
- Develop a reflective approach to life;
- Support pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives;

- Develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now;
- Provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;
- Raise awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
- Provide opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
- Support students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
- Support those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.

Collective worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.

Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.

The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually.

Times and Groupings

- There will be an act of collective worship everyday, which will usually take place in the hall at 9am. The whole school will attend church for a monthly service.

Planning

- A cycle of themes follows the lectionary suggested by the local incumbent.
- Collective worship will be led by small groups of children one day each week under guidance from the Collective worship leader or class teacher.
- Collective worship led by classes arise directly from the children's work in class.
- Visitors will be invited to join or lead collective worship.

- Parents are warmly encouraged to come to the church services in which the children are involved.
- A sung act of worship with the children, will be held once a week to enable children to get to know our most used hymns and songs.
- The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broad Christian Character.
- The Vicar or Minister will lead collective worship regularly in School and in Church.

The atmosphere of Collective Worship

- Suitable music will be played on entry.
- There will be times of silence, participation, just 'looking and listening', or reflection
- Staff should participate fully
- There will be times for sharing achievements in work, sport or music or behaviour, and for sharing birthdays or special personal events for both staff and children. In this way, a sense of community and companionship will be established.
- If children are late, they will enter quietly, without fuss.
- An adult representative is responsible for the class during collective worship
- There will be an organised seating arrangement
- Staff and children will enter in silence
- Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from a religious background.

Resources

Staff will agree appropriate arrangements to store resources. Resources are kept in the hall or main storage area. Older children are actively engaged in setting up the music and words for singing of hymns.

Record keeping

A record of themes/hymns and resources will be kept for the year in order to provide an overview of what has been covered over a term/year etc.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the collective worship provided. Provision would then be made for private study time.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Collective Worship co-ordinator is responsible for planning and monitoring. This includes monitoring that the collective worship is of good quality and follows the law. All staff evaluate their collective worship and record this evaluation in the folder.

The school will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Signed _____

Date _____