

Westhead Lathom St. James C.E. Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

"Christian values are implicit in all that we do"

Last Reviewed Date: Spring 2016

Next Review Date: Spring 2017

Issue	Date	Author/Editor	Revision Notes
1	February 2006	Pam Jary	Original Policy documents copied into new format, with header, footer and version control. Policy reviewed and updated to ensure reflects current policy and practice
2	March 2007	Alison Albion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethos statement added Collective Worship timetable amended Described review of Collective Worship planning.
3	March 2009	Alison Albion	Policy reviewed & updated to ensure reflects current policy & practice
4	Summer 2011	Alison Albion	Policy reviewed & updated to ensure reflects current policy & practice
5	Autumn 2012	Alison Albion	Policy reviewed & updated to ensure reflects current policy & practice.
6	Spring 2014	Alison Albion	Policy reviewed & updated
7	Summer 2015	Alison Albion	Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Motto updated
8	Spring 2016	Alison Albion	

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date.....

Mission Statement: Our School Now

Our school provides a secure, caring, stimulating and challenging indoor and outdoor environment that promotes a love of learning. Our children, parents, families, staff, governors and community work together to enable each child to become a happy, healthy, well-balanced individual in preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.



The ethos of the school is based on the Christian ideals of commitment, responsibility and respect and love for Jesus Christ, self and others. We are committed to working in partnership with all of those involved in our children's development to lead our children towards tolerance, understanding, justice, and sensitivity to the needs of others and appreciation of the world around them.

Our motto "Enjoy, Respect, Learn, Achieve"

Vision Statement: Our Vision for the Future

- To provide role models who: go the extra mile; give of themselves and their time to meet the needs of the whole child; promote spirituality and an appreciation of the wonders of the natural world; promote a love of learning; develop Christian ideals of commitment, responsibility, respect, team-work, tolerance, understanding, justice, sensitivity of self and others and love for Jesus Christ, within a secure, caring, inspiring, stimulating and challenging environment both indoors and outside.
- For children, parents, families, staff, governors and community to work together in partnership to enable each child to become a happy, healthy, well-balanced individuals with self-confidence and belief that builds character to enable them to engage thoroughly, fulfilling each individual's potential through life's experiences, opportunities and responsibilities in a rapidly changing world.

Aims

Westhead Lathom St. James Church of England Primary School aims to :-

- Provide a broad and challenging curriculum and a stimulating learning environment that extends outside the classroom;
- Develop enquiring minds and spirituality through curiosity, awe and wonder of the world;
- Teach, demonstrate and praise Christian Values;
- Value the power of prayer;
- Teach with innovative and investigative approaches to learning;
- Provide an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits;
- Plan a rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources;
- Encourage children to achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum and to seek excellence within an ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed;
- Teach children to work independently, collaboratively and become highly motivated lifelong learners;
- Include opportunities for creative thinking in problem solving settings, developing divergent thinking, adaptability and flexibility in preparation for the many changes ahead in life, including the rapid progress in technology;
- Build partnerships between the school, home and community;
- Strive for continuous improvement in all that we do;
- Continually self-evaluate and continue to improve upon current practice;

- Work collaboratively towards common goals;
- Place self-esteem and a positive and inclusive approach to behaviour as high priorities thus ensuring that individuals respect and value themselves, others and the environment and is motivated to do their best in school and beyond in order to become a fulfilled adult who gives to the community.

Ethos Statement

"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 churches 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".

At Westhead Lathom St. James C.E. Primary School we believe that collective worship should help to "introduce children to aesthetic and spiritual experience" (Plowden Report). As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School we uphold the figure of Jesus Christ and our daily acts of worship will be wholly of a broadly Christian character.

We also feel that, since ours is a small school, regular opportunities for all to meet and worship in school as well as in St. James' Church, fosters in each child a sense of belonging to the school family, God's family and the wider community. It is a valued opportunity for consideration of the wonder and importance of life with opportunities for reflection. It is aimed at a level which will engage each child and member of staff but also prepare the way for the next steps towards a deeper understanding and appreciation of our place and purpose in our physical and spiritual world.

Statutory Requirement

'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (**Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1993**)

ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Also *'It must contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.'*

The Collective Worship Policy at Westhead Lathom St. James' follows the guidance of Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship and the Diocese of Liverpool Handbook for Church Schools.

The School's founding Trust Deed sets no criteria for Collective Worship.

Aims

The aim of collective worship is to provide, for all pupils, the opportunity to:

- reflect upon God and give Him honour
- explore their own beliefs
- experience and nurture the spiritual dimension through worship
- experience something special and separate from ordinary school activities
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- reinforce positive attitudes and Christian values such as love, peace, kindness and compassion
- experience spiritual, moral and cultural development
- cultivate awe and wonder of the world
- celebrate their uniqueness and preciousness in the eyes of others and God

Collective worship should be inclusive, spiritual and educational.

It should be inclusive:

- pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- acknowledge diversity
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements

- enable children to participate and respond, by active involvement or listening and reflection
- match the needs of pupils
- foster a sense of community
- develop personal relationships and encourage social development

It should be spiritual:

- ensure children feel calm, relaxed and secure
- be a special time conducive to worship
- foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy
- provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual experiences
- allow time to be still, encouraging children to make effective use of silence for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer
- provide an opportunity for children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community, and to respect all individuals as children of God
- provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and those of others
- include a variety of words, music, images, artefacts and symbols

It should be educational.

- reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others
- enable children to share some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level
- provide children with a vocabulary of worship
- encourage respect and care of God's creation by a positive attitude to local and global environmental issues
- provide opportunities to celebrate major and minor Christian festivals
- be properly planned
- be consistent with the aims of the school

Planning

Responsibility for planning Collective Worship resides with the Headteacher supported by the teaching staff.

The Collective Worship scheme has been revised and based upon the Margaret Cooling Books to form the core of our Worship, supplemented by the Christian Calendar, Bible stories, WOW worship, internet sites, Jumping

Fish and SEAL (Social & Emotional aspects of learning) materials with some elements of other religion's festivals. In addition, every Tuesday the oldest children plan collective worship ensuring that opportunities for reflection and prayer are included. Where possible work of the world's churches is highlighted and powerful visuals are included to widen the children's knowledge and interest.

Every year, the older children plan worship for the week during Children's worship week.

Resources

Staff members have access to a shelf of assembly resources in the Headteacher's office that provide detail and ideas for worship themes. St. James Church provides Christian artefacts for use during worship.

Visitors to Collective Worship

We welcome the wider perspective provided by other Christian denominations and invite other Christian ministry to lead our collective worship. Other speakers are also invited from time to time. Visitors are briefed beforehand about the theme of the collective worship and the appropriate level of meaning for our children. Visitors usually contribute towards collective worship rather than take the lead. Parents and grandparents are invited to collective worship every Friday.

Implementation

Daily collective worship usually takes place on school premises but may sometimes be in St. James Church. It is normally at the start of the school day but flexibility in timing is acceptable. Collective worship should be acceptable to and appropriate for all participants, staff and pupils.

Although worship will be the main part of a daily assembly, a clear distinction will be made. Daily assembly is held as follows:

Monday	Whole School, led fortnightly by the vicar of St. James and alternate weeks by Headteacher, Mrs Albion
Tuesday	Whole school led by Mr. Peetoom/Wise Owls Pupils
Wednesday	Whole school led by Mrs Albion
Thursday	Whole school led by Headteacher, Mrs Albion
Friday	Whole school led by Headteacher. Celebration assembly. Parents invited.

Collective Worship will also include some of the following elements:

Singing, stories, talks by visiting speakers, poetry read by adults or children, drama or items recorded from the radio. In each of the school terms the children from at least one of the classes lead an assembly. Parents are invited to join us on those occasions, which are usually held in St. James' Church. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during assembly to enable the children to reflect on the contribution made in our world by other major religions.

Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship on religious grounds. Pupils withdrawn will be constructively occupied and adequately supervised in a way that does not make them feel isolated or different.