

Withnell Fold School



Collective Worship Policy

February 2025

The aim of collective worship is to "provide an opportunity for pupils to worship within a broadly Christian character to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs and to encourage participation and response whether through actions, involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered."

This takes into account the pupils appropriate family background and the age and aptitudes of the pupils.

Aims for Collective Worship

We aim to foster the spiritual development of our children in: -

- Celebrating the principal beliefs and values of our school
- Enriching the personal development of pupils
- Giving a positive challenge to the sense of direction to all who share an understanding of life as a journey.

Developing a sense of: -

- awe, wonder and mystery
- 'place' in the universe
- pattern, sequence and order
- interdependence with the natural world
- self-worth and value of others
- celebration of life's mysteries and joys
- respect for the search for 'truth' in human experience
- the beyond which is accessible to us.

An awareness of: -

- the possibility of a revelation of a beyond
- beliefs, values, attitudes at the heart of human relationships
- issues of the meaning, purpose and value in life
- responses to beliefs about the origins and destiny of life.

Methods by which we hope to achieve our aim

Collective Worship will: -

- be focused on a person, value or shared human experience
- be quiet, reflective and prayerful
- have meaningful ritual
- use the bible as an additional source of authority and revelation
- recognise the existence of God and other deities
- offer insights with Christian tradition.
- raise questions.

- use stories and prayer from other faiths.

We hope that Collective Worship will develop in our children: -

- a sense of awe, wonder, mystery.
- a sense of transience and constant change.
- a sense of pattern, sequence and order.
- a sense of interdependence with the natural world.
- a sense of uniqueness, self-worth, identity.
- a sense of others as feeling, thinking persons.
- an intuitive awareness that life involves choices, right and wrong, good and evil.
- an awareness of the nature of commitment and how this affects a person's attitude to life.
- a sense of transcendence and of there being more to situations than meets the eye.
- an awareness of meaning, purpose and direction.
- an awareness of celebration of life's miseries and joys.
- a sense of enquiry, exploration and open-mindedness.

Collective worship will be provided daily and is organised as follows:

Monday - Whole School Worship

Tuesday – Class Worship

Wednesday – Key Stage Worship

Thursday – Key Stage Worship

Friday – Celebration assembly – Star of the week / Outside achievements and birthdays

Themes such as *Courage and Generosity* will be considered and followed through in each act of worship. Other acts of worship drawn from different faiths and non-Christian dimensions are permissible. The approach may be multi-sensory in that full use will be made of music, candles, etc.

Teachers, pupils and visitors will conduct the worship. The teachers will conduct worship on a timetabled rota and are expected to attend acts of worship on a Monday and Friday but not necessarily the Key Stage assemblies. If visitors are in school, then their attendance is expected and encouraged.

The format may include: -

- Quiet entrance to music.
- Opening hymn/song.
- Short, related reading / introduction to the theme or story connected to the theme
- Period of quiet reflection / prayer.
- Exit to music.

Collective worship will take place in the largest classroom and the space is used as effectively as is possible.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Teachers have the right to non-participation should they feel uncomfortable or unable to conduct appropriately dignified and sensitive acts of worship. Any pupils who have been withdrawn must be supervised at all times. Both parents and staff must inform the Head Teacher.

Reviewed: - January 2025

Next review date: - January 2027