

# Welton St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy



## Our Vision

As an inclusive Christian community we value each person, seeking to release everyone's full potential as promised by Jesus Christ. We seek to provide a safe, inspiring and creative learning environment providing opportunities for all to flourish. Through challenge, support and care, we strive for excellence in all that we do; always building on the foundations of shared values with consistently high expectations rooted in God's love. Together we are encouraged to be agents of positive change in this world.

*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* Romans 15:13

**Wisdom Hope Community Dignity**

*Together we care, learn and thrive*

## Collective Worship Policy

Approved March 2021  
Review every 2 years  
Next Review Term 4 2022/23

***‘And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.’*** Matthew 2.11

Collective worship leader: Mrs June Nicolson

Foundation Governor: Rev Jane Foster-Smith

Bishop’s Visitor: Mrs Helen Grinham

### **Collective Worship Policy Introduction**

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of Welton St Mary’s Church of England Primary Academy and celebrates the central role that each child to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and recognises and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. It is a time to come together, as a community, to share common values and to develop a sense of awe and wonder.

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher and other members of the senior leadership team, teaching staff, pupils, members of the clergy and other invited guests.

### **Aims**

Collective Worship at Welton St Mary’s Church of England Primary Academy supports the school’s distinctive vision, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to explore the school’s Christian vision and values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.

- to encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues: locally, nationally and globally.
- To provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions and justice so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible
- to provide the opportunity for all learners to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within school, the local and international community
- to engage all learners who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in our school

### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following are shared as Christian elements of Collective Worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance which will explore and relate to our core Christian values
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer, and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Having a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling everyone to understand the Trinity
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

### **Planning and organisation**

Themes for collective worship are planned by the coordinator and the collective worship council using Roots and Fruits framework as a basis. The Christian calendar and areas of interest shown by pupils are also taken into account in Collective Worship planning.

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of collective worship in the following ways:

- Each class plans and leads 2 whole school collective worships each year. Pupils are encouraged to consider the message and how they deliver the message to other pupils, staff and parents.

- Children may have the responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a collective worship or church service
- Year 6 work with the incumbent from church to prepare an act of worship in church as their leaver's service
- In acts of worship, individual pupils are invited to lead prayer
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to act out or role play stories

### **Implementation**

Collective Worship at Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy is inclusive and all members of our school community are invited to attend. It is conducted in a calm and dignified way, with children entering and leaving in a respectful manner. Everyone in Collective Worship is expected to be quiet, thoughtful and behave in an appropriate way, listening carefully to the teachings and invited to participate appropriately in prayers and songs.

A candle is lit to provide a visual focus and to mark this time as a special period of reflection. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT). Our Collective Worship also offers opportunities to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, allowing us to promote the ethos of the school where all children are valued and achievements and learning celebrated. We hold worship services at St Mary's Church at Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. Parents/carers are invited to join these and other acts of worship in school at any other times during the year. We do ask that anybody joining us for collective worship respects how we, as a school community, lead collective worships and enter and leave quietly and in a respectful manner.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the school community to worship with music, through singing, liturgy and the lighting of three candles to welcome God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit into our school, reflecting the Trinitarian nature of our worship.
- **Engage** – we share a bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- **Respond** -- pupils and staff discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- **Send** – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour.

We close with final prayer, music

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

## **Inclusion**

Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. During Collective Worship we are always sensitive to the different backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes:

- Those who have, or who come from families with Christian commitment and belief
- Parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- Members of other faith communities
- Those who do not share in any particular religious faith

## **Responsibilities**

**Pupils** from years 3-6 can volunteer to be a member of the collective worship council. They have a job description, vision for collective worship and set aims for the year. In addition they regularly plan, prepare and deliver the content of collective worship.

## **Worship lead**

Leads and works alongside the collective worship team to plan and organise collective worship across school and in the wider community through both daily worship and those celebrating specific times throughout the Christian calendar.

## **Visitors**

Regular visitors leading collective worship are:

Reverend Adam of St Mary's Church Welton

Anne Evans from Threshold Church

Visitors are supported to understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at our school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Evaluation strategies currently used by staff and governors for measuring the impact of collective worship are:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during collective worship
- Observations conducted by staff and governors

- Feedback from pupils and parents
- Feedback from collective worship council members
- Thoughts in reflection books
- Termly collective worship meetings with foundation governors and Bishop's visitor
- Observations of children's general behaviour in and around school

The monitoring and evaluation of collective worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

- Formal observations of Acts of Collective Worship by leaders
- Pupil discussions with the Headteacher or governor
- Informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice
- Pupils' responses and ideas during collective worship
- Written evidence in response to collective worship themes
- Written and photographic evidence

The foundation governors and Bishop's visitor have a role in monitoring Collective Worship.