



Faith, Love, Courage, Patience.

Collective Worship Policy

Next Review: **Spring 2016**

Member of Staff Responsible: **RE Subject Leader**

Management Responsible: **Head Teacher and Rector**

WORSHIP POLICY

As Wareside is a Church of England school, we feel that collective worship should reflect the school's Christian values and nurture the whole ethos of the school. It should develop the feeling of belonging to a community and is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

As a Church of England primary school, worship permeates all aspects of school life. Worship can be defined as:

- A time for teaching and learning about God's word and learning to live in God's world, as Jesus Christ lived and taught.
- A 'gathering together' for praise and prayer.
- A time set aside for communication between God and ourselves.

Collective Worship takes place daily through assemblies and in classes as part of RE lessons. We also worship together in Holy Trinity Church four times a year.

Aims for Worship

- to foster an awareness of Church of England liturgy and doctrine
- to communicate with God through prayer and reflection, singing, celebrating and teaching
- to encourage a religious imagination
- to foster strong Christian values and reflect on them in our lives and relationships
- to build up the spiritual life of the school community
- to provide opportunities to gather together in fellowship
- to foster an understanding and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to develop an appreciation of God's world
- to understand repentance and forgiveness
- to celebrate God in all people

Collective Worship Timetable

Whole School Worship	Two days (Monday and Friday)
Rev Mark's Worship	One day (Wednesday)
Collective Worship	Two days (Tuesday and Thursday)

Guidelines for Planning and Leading Collective Worship:

Themes

The Headteacher and Collective Worship Crew plan and develop themes with regard to:

- Relevance to children and the age range concerned
- Links to the Bible
- Major events in the Church's year e.g. St Andrew's Day, Saints Days, Harvest, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter & Pentecost.
- Fostering positive relations within our school community and with the wider church community.

Over the course of the year themes will reflect a good balance of: SMSC, Old Testament, New Testament, and tradition and liturgy.

People Leading:

The Headteacher leads two collective worships and the Rector leads one a week, other Teachers and Collective Worship Crew lead worship on a rota basis.

Prayer

Prayer is an integral part of life in a Church school and may be used in class or in collective worship.

Prayer should always be child friendly and relevant to their own experience.

Prayer should reflect a balance of:

- praise to God

- petition relevant to topical events and/or pertinent to the school community

- traditional/liturgical prayer (e.g. Lord's Prayer)

- prayers with responses

Hymns and Songs

Music and actions are an important part of worship. Hymns and songs may be chosen according to the theme of the occasion. The children will learn a blend of traditional and modern hymns.

Music

A variety of music is played to create an atmosphere of reflection as children enter and leave the hall. This may be linked to the theme of the week and may reflect music and cultures from around the world. Children are encouraged to play live music in collective worship.

Focus

We use a variety of artefacts and visual images to provide a focus for worship e.g. flowers, candles, a cross, PowerPoint images, Bibles.

Visual Aids

Visual aids are encouraged as a means of creating and retaining interest.

Arriving and Leaving Collective worship

Children should arrive and leave in a quiet and orderly fashion. Music will be played at a level to encourage preparation for worship.

Participation

Everyone can be actively involved in a number of ways: reading, drama, music and singing, response to questions and audience participation. We endeavour to vary the presentation and style of worship in order to include those with Special Educational Needs.

Reflection

The children are given opportunities for reflection as they enter collective worship through music and visual stimuli. Within collective worship children have opportunity to reflect in prayer time. Reflection Areas are found in every class and in the hall for the children to use as they wish.

Church Links

Children attend the Parish Church several times a year and different classes take turn planning, preparing and leading the services.

Harvest	Whole School
Christmas	Class 2
Easter	Whole School
Leavers' Service	Year 6

The children make educational visits to the Church as part of their RE lessons and as part of the wider curriculum.

Community Links

From time to time groups of children will extend their service to the wider community, e.g. visits to sing Hymns and Carols in Hillview Residential Home, Sunday Harvest Festival with the church community.

Evaluating and Monitoring Collective Worship:

Informal feedback is sought, between staff and the coordinator.

Formal review of policy annually

Feedback from the children via the School Council and Pupil Consultation Interviews

The school is looking to develop a system for parents/carers to record their feedback at the end of services and Family Worship.

It is recognised that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Worship. If parents wish to exercise this right, arrangements would be made for the child's withdrawal, by the class teacher and after discussion with the head teacher. The head teacher would inform the governors of any instances of children being withdrawn.