



West Monkton Church of England School
Where everyone has the courage and confidence to fly.

Collective Worship Policy

September 2021

Review: September 2023

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Introduction

This policy should be taken and used as part of West Monkton Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school. Collective Worship occupies an important and unique place in the life of West Monkton Church of England Primary School. It provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather together, to remind themselves of God and to reflect upon the beliefs and values through prayer, praise and celebration. The ethos of the school is both underpinned and developed by the Christian values, teaching and reflection, which are encountered during times of worship. To this end, all aspects of school life including the academic, social, recreational and pastoral are considered to be part of our giving to God in worship and praise. In addition, the school's respect and commitment to collective worship is a reflection of its commitment to God and his Church and is in accordance with the requirements of West Monkton Church of England Primary School Trust Deed. The spirit, aims and practice for collective worship at West Monkton Church of England Primary School are captured in the DfEE Circular 1/94, paragraph 50, which states; 'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive values. As a Church of England School, the ethos and spiritual dimension of collective worship will be Christian in particular and Anglican in general. Above all, collective worship is understood to be an integral and essential feature of school life, and serves to inform and offer to God all that is good in the life of the school.

Collective Worship and the Law

Responsibilities

The 1988 Education Reform Act stated that the daily act of collective worship should be part of a balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In our school, we want our children to be enthusiastic about attending worship; we want to encourage a sense of community and of sharing and caring; we want to provide an opportunity to celebrate and an opportunity to pray. Collective worship takes place in the main hall as whole school gathering or individual phases.

At West Monkton Church of England Primary School, collective worship is understood to be most effective when it embraces the following:

- Single acts of collective worship should be part of a greater scheme or programme.
- A collective worship programme should provide for continuity and progression and serve to meet the children at an appropriate point in their spiritual and cognitive development. - All groups who have an interest in the life of the school to be involved in the planning of worship wherever appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

Parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship provided they give written notification to the school. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of collective worship, but attending 'assemblies' is part of a teacher's contractual duty.

Aims and Objectives

West Monkton Church of England School aims for collective worship are summarised as follows: - To help pupils move towards an awareness of God. - To develop in the children a sense of beauty, awe, wonder and mystery. - To provide an opportunity for children to reflect on Christian and moral values. - To provide

an opportunity for children to make connections between Christian stories, their own spirituality and the wider world. - To foster a sense of community based upon Christian values

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Worship in school

Leading worship

Collective worship is led by a variety of people from the school, church and local community. We also provide children with opportunities to plan, lead and reflect upon Collective Worship. Worships are planned and reflected upon to ensure we are providing the best experiences for the children and building on knowledge and understanding within our values.

Expectations

- Acts of worship should be properly prepared, presented and evaluated
- A programme of collective worship themes for the term are available to all teaching staff.
- Variety in presentation is important. Tools to aid delivery can include: video recordings (tapes and CD's), drama (rehearsed or spontaneous), music, dance, stories can be told as well as read
- All leaders, readers and contributors should be aware of the place of their involvement in the worship, in order to ensure the smooth running of the live event.
- High Expectations of behaviour are expected throughout the collective worship. It is the school's expectation that the children will sit quietly and wait for the collective worship to begin, listening to the music being played. This preliminary 'quiet space' is an important aspect of preparing for collective worship.
- To provide evidence of daily collective worship and a means of a review a record of the worship is stored in power points on the public drive. The school also provides opportunities to share and celebrate work from other areas of the curriculum. The school identifies these gatherings as assemblies

The pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place both in person and virtually. We aim to provide children with immersive experiences at an age appropriate level. This being the case, our worships take place in a variety of groupings: whole school, key stage, phase and class.

Our worships follow the Christian calendar alongside reflecting upon Galatians 5:22-23 Fruits of the Spirit "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".

Worship in the wider community

Whenever appropriate, children and adults should have the opportunity to worship alongside members of the wider community. - Children should have the opportunity to worship in St Augustine's Church, West Monkton at key points throughout the academic year. There is also a School Church Links partnership who aim is to further develop, deepen enhance and encourage a close constructive relationship with St Augustine's Church.

Visitors

West Monkton Church of England Primary School encourages visitors to contribute to or lead collective worship, particularly at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. If outside speakers do take part in an act of collective worship, we ensure that they are carefully briefed about the school's policy.

Role of a Collective Worship Coordinator

- To ensure continuity in the topics suggested which are meaningful for the pupils and staff at the school.
- To support staff by providing resources and advise on courses available to assist professional development.
- To monitor and evaluate collective worship within the school by regularly observing.

Conclusion

At West Monkton Church of England School, we are confident that our approach to collective worship is educationally sound and crucial to the spiritual, moral, cultural and intellectual development to our pupils. We believe that our collective worship policy embodies an integrity which parents and teachers alike will be pleased to acknowledge.