



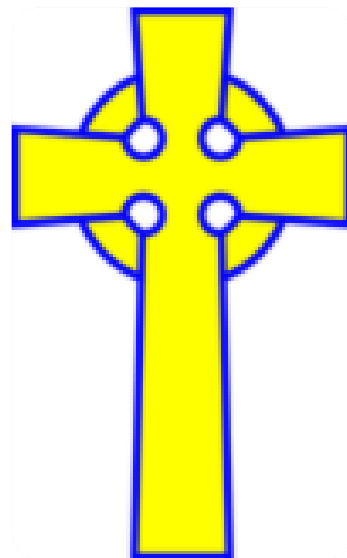
The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust

Whitfield C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

January 2018



**The Good Shepherd
Multi Academy Trust**



1.Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of Creativity, Trust, Courage, Justice, Wisdom and Thankfulness.

Our school is part of The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust and our core Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

Our aim is to provide children of all faiths, and none, with excellent educational provision within a caring and supportive Christian ethos. We have at the centre of our mission and purpose the belief that every child has a God given right to educational excellence through the provision of high quality schooling.

We believe:

- Everyone has something to offer.



- We are on a shared journey, being there for each other and not feeling isolated.
- We are here for the whole person, spiritually, morally and socially.
- In working with transparency and openness.

At Whitfield C of E Primary School we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Whitfield C of E Primary School is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- to regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- to have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Whitfield C of E Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);



- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;
 - discovering our place in wider communities in Britain and the world
 - discovering our differences and similarities and celebrating these

2. Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head of School, Executive Headteachers and Local Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus on the website. Staff are also expected to attend collective worship unless permission is granted from The Head of School for them not to attend.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with The Head of School. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

3. Planning a Collective Worship programme

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting three candles and welcoming the Trinity by each of their names: Father, Son and Holy Spirit



We also make 'space for the spirit' by using 'Diaries of Reflection' in class worship times on Wednesdays. These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including '*Welcome*', '*Learning*', '*Reflecting*' and '*Responding*'.

Worship-planning takes place in staff meetings once a term, at the beginning of the term, led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and Diaries of Reflection and to plan themes for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Rev.Jon Russell, one of the local governing body members has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

We use 'Roots and Fruits' (available on www.imaginer.co.uk) as a basis for planning Collective Worship alongside 'The Big Story' from 'Understanding Christianity'.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Head of School.

4.Our pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place with the whole school every afternoon after registration. It is usually led by The Head of School and sometimes other members of teaching staff as needed.

Visitors have included; Rev Jon Russel, Northumbrian Water and the artist Graeme Hopper,

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events. Other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these acts of worship may be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

Class Teacher-led Reflections, e.g. Diaries of Reflection

Each week pupils meet in their classes for this act of worship. Through their 'Diaries for Reflection' pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made in diary form. Subject to usual disclosure procedures these responses are confidential between the pupils and his/her tutor. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives. Pupils who are unsure of their beliefs reflect on their own spiritual development within their own belief systems.

Whole School celebration: Act of worship

Once a week the School gathers for celebration worship, on a Friday, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance. Parents may be invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development through music.



Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the 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 Head of School is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Head of School.

Summary of Whitfield C of E Primary School pattern of worship organisation

Day	Usually Led By	Content
Monday	Head of School	Welcome', 'Learning', 'Reflecting' and 'Responding' within current theme from 'Roots & Fruits' or Church calendar Also – current affairs reflection
Tuesday	Head of School	Welcome', 'Learning', 'Reflecting' and 'Responding' within current theme from 'Roots & Fruits' or Church calendar Also- remembering our sponsored child from 'Compassion'
Wednesday	Class teachers	Diaries of Reflection
Thursday	Head of School	Welcome', 'Learning', 'Reflecting' and 'Responding' within current theme from 'Roots & Fruits' or Church calendar Also- prayers for our community – prayer tree
Friday	Head of School	Celebration collective worship- celebration certificates for 'Star of The Week'(for keeping golden rules) and 'Achievement Certificate' (for using one or more Learning Power) Also out of school achievements celebrated Sung worship