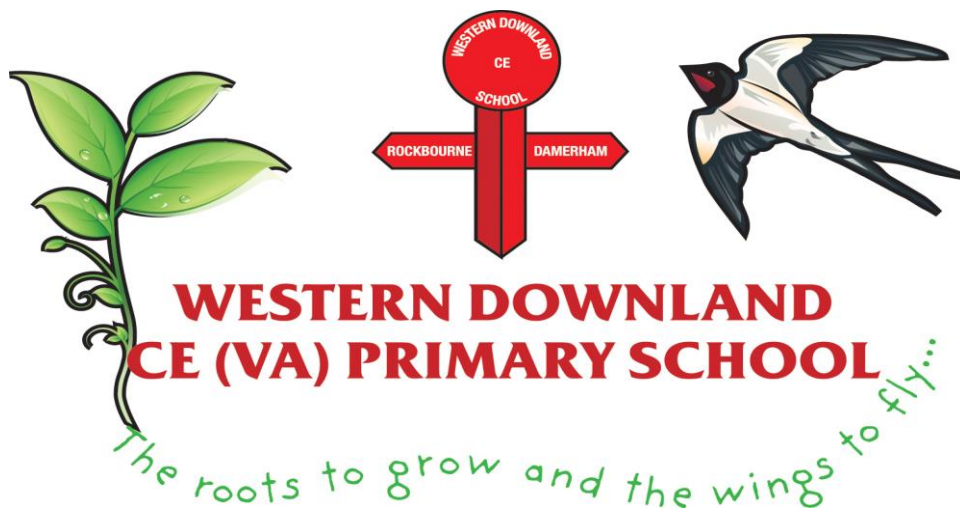


WESTERN DOWNLAND C.E (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed

March 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

Western Downland Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School highly values its Christian foundation and its close links within the Western Downland parishes and the Diocese of Salisbury.

The Christian understanding which informs and underpins our shared values and activities at Western Downland begins from two simple principles, "The Roots to Grow and the Wings to Fly".

Philosophy

For us, collective worship is the heartbeat of our school. We value the daily opportunity for children and adults to come together, without compulsion, as a school community to revere, reflect and respond. These sessions are planned and led by staff, children and at times by visitors from the local church community and attended by children and adults.

Revere

*Giving children opportunities to become aware of and **revere** the world in new ways; to wonder about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that stop us in our tracks and make us think). In this, children are learning about life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

Reflect

*Giving children opportunities to **reflect** on their personal experiences; to meditate on life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning from life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.*

Respond

*Giving children opportunities to **respond** to all of this; to do something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.*

Aims

Through collective worship, we engage in relevant meaningful experiences providing opportunities for pupils to explore Fundamental British Values (Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, Tolerance) and opportunities for the pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Through collective worship we aim to:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- explore ideas and learn from the example of Christian teachings and aspects of other faiths and cultures
- explore ideas and learn from the example of Christian faith in action
- explore ideas and learn from the example of Fundamental British Values
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community
- celebrate and give thanks during occasions of significance, including festivals
- provide opportunities to recognise and consider the needs others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God, experience stillness and quiet and respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer

Legal Status of Collective Worship

We will, as is stated in The 1988 Education Reform Act, ensure that 'all pupils in attendance take part each day in an act of Collective Worship'.

Acts of Collective Worship may take the form of any regular school grouping eg whole school, key stage or class.

Collective Worship is given a special place in the school day and can take place in a variety of settings (if appropriate).

The responsibility for collective worship in our school rests with the governing body who have delegated the day to day management to the head teacher and designated worship leader.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Collective worship in this Church of England school, will be based upon the foundations and principles of the broad tradition of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian tradition.
- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of service through love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at our school take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way. We begin our worship by lighting a candle and bidding words "Jesus is the light of the world" with the children responding "Shine on us today". The closure of worship is marked with a prayer and the blowing out of the candle.

Rights of Withdrawal

We are an inclusive community that respects the integrity of the different families and backgrounds we serve. However, we also respect the right of parents to 'wholly or partly excuse their child(ren) from attendance at religious worship in the school.'

During Collective Worship we invite those in attendance to join us in prayer, using the following invitational and inclusive language: *'As we are a church school, I invite you to join me in prayer. Please sit quietly and respectfully to consider the words of the prayer and if you would like to close your eyes and put your hands together, please do.'*

This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

The responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to all staff during the process of appointment. In VA schools of a religious character, teachers including headteacher do not have the right to withdraw.

Organisation

Infant Site

Day	Person Leading	Setting
Monday	Head Teacher	Virtual in Classroom
Tuesday	Teacher	Hall
Wednesday	Teacher (worship through singing)	Hall
Thursday	Class Teacher	Classroom
Friday	Head Teacher (well done worship)	Hall

Junior Site

Day	Person Leading	Setting
Monday	Head Teacher	Virtual in Classroom
Tuesday	Teacher (worship through singing)	Hall
Wednesday	Teacher	Hall
Thursday	Head Teacher (well done worship)	Hall
Friday	Class Teacher	Classroom

The time of day for Collective Worship may vary. Rev. Les Player will conduct worship once every half term at each site as well as leading our church celebration services.

Planning and Recording

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship is varied.

The school has a three year plan for Christian collective worship themes.

Collective Worship is planned and resourced by the worship leader and published weekly. In planning it is considered that as a church school we shall pass through different Christian seasons and highlight the place of different festivals/celebrations within the Christian calendar. This pattern is flexible and on occasion it is recognised that the worship leader or teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events (eg Anti Bullying week, St George's Day), including other religions and their religious events (eg Hanukkah, Diwali).

We give opportunity for review and evaluation of collective worship during specific PDMs. This is undertaken together with the rector. There are various strategies for monitoring the quality and impact of collective worship including Worship big books, head teacher/governor observations, foundation governor monitoring (eg pupil interviews) and worship leader monitoring including collective staff review in PDM.

We actively seek to encourage pupils to share their views on collective worship and to be part of the evaluation process. Outcomes from monitoring are used to inform governors of the impact of collective worship on the school community and to inform future planning.