

Collective Worship Guidance

2024-2025

Lead SLT	HT
Approved by GOVERNING BODY on:	November 2024
Review Cycle:	Annual
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The Weald CofE Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of respect, responsibility, trust, forgiveness and love and reinforces our vision; a space to learn and grow in the knowledge and love of god to flourish in all we do.

At The Weald we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. It is an opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our Acts of Collective Worship:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar along with celebrations in other faiths.

- Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective Worship Includes the Educational 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.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.

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 Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning of Collective Worship

The headteacher alongside the SLT plans the themes for the year / term and then creates a detailed half termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and important events.

The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson.

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship. Faith Ambassadors are encouraged to support in collective worship. Year 6 Tech Team and Hall Step also support the smooth running of collective worship. Eco Ambassadors, Sports Crew and Playground buddies are encouraged to promote their role within collective worship.

Themes

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the diocese and our values. In addition, each term, the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and other faiths are included. Events such as the harvest festival, royal events etc. are included.

Organisation of Collective Worship for the Academic Year 2024-2025

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms:

The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however this is the intended pattern for collective worship:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Diocesan Materials and Values Led by Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher	Picture News / Topical theme Led by Deputy Head Teacher or Class Teacher	Worship through music Led by Music Lead	Open The Book Led by Revd Jane (bi-weekly)	Celebrating Values in Practice Led by Deputy Head
The focus of this Collective Worship is to bring the whole school community together and to reflect on our school values alongside the materials provided by the Diocese.	The focus of this Collective Worship is to reflect on topical issues in the news, which are relevant to the children. It supports their development and understanding of themselves as a global citizen. There is always a link to the Bible.	The focus of this Collective Worship is to teach the children that worship can happen in different ways and to bring our school community together with shared songs.	The focus of this Collective Worship is to build a strong link between the school community and the church community and to bring a deeper understanding of the Bible and its teachings. When Revd Jane isn't in attendance, class collective worship takes place linked to the Monday or Tuesday Collective Worship.	The focus of this collective worship is to celebrate our week and the values followed and learning that has happened in our school community.

Festival and Celebrations in the Church

To further develop links with the church community, at The Weald we celebrate:

Harvest (at school)

Christmas (Christingle)

Easter

End of the academic year celebration

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome Revd Jane bi-weekly.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the guidance and practice of collective worship.

The RE lead seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship every term.

SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections evaluate the impact of collective worship on the school community and its contribution to the values and ethos of the school.