



***'Where Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked, sharing God's light, spreading God's love, following God's path'***

### **POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2024**

*"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)*

At Witton Church Walk Church of England Nursery and Primary School collective worship is integral to the daily life of our school community. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contributions of every adult and child. The daily act of Christian worship underpins our vision and is supported by all children, staff and governors. The school has a strong partnership with St Helens Church who we collaborate with to strengthen the provision of our school.

#### **OUR VISION**

Governors, parents and school staff worked together to agree a vision for Witton Church Walk Nursery and Primary School which they felt was represented in the following quotation...

***'Where Every Door is Opened and Every Gift is Unlocked, sharing God's light, spreading God's love, following God's path'***

***'Love Your Neighbour as Yourself'. Mark 12:31***

To elaborate on this...At Witton we are a partnership of school, church, home, the Diocese and community. We create a stimulating and caring environment, grounded in Christian belief and practice, so that all members of our school community can flourish. We all appreciate and value what it means to be a positive member of a diverse and multicultural community. Time is taken to value and nurture each child educationally, creatively and spiritually. Children and staff are encouraged to aim for 'Everyday Excellence' and believe in themselves. Understanding and valuing their self-worth and the importance of their place and purpose in our community to be the person they are fully capable of being.

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Date for Review:

## **THE AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

At Witton Church Walk Church of England Nursery and Primary School we aim:

- To ensure collective worship offers opportunity to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- To ensure children and adults appreciate that Christians worship in different ways such as music, story, prayer, reflection, festivals and through the liturgical structure.
- To ensure worship helps children and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- To ensure pupils and adults engage in planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- To ensure that leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- To encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

## **ORGANISATION**

We hold acts of worship everyday which take place in classrooms, in the hall, at St Helens Church, outside in the reflection garden and using the worship displays around school. All worships follow the liturgical structure, including the Holy Trinity. Christian festivals are celebrated by the school community during services at St Helens Church.

### **Monday and Tuesday** – Key Stage Worship and class based worship

These are led by the Class Teacher or support staff.

Focused on exploring our Christian value for the half term and making links to HeartSmart and today's world. Children appreciate the different ways in which Christians worship, for example, reading from the Bible, music, prayer, stillness and a variety of reflection opportunities. Prayers are written to share in our Friday worship as part of the spiritual journey of the week.

Children are led in two separate worships for Key Stage 1 and 2 by a member of the school team or a visitor. Worship explores the Christian value for the half term and builds upon curriculum themes and events in today's world. Prayer, stillness and reflection time close the worship. This is led by the Head Teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

### **Wednesday** – Collective Worship

Collective worship is held every Wednesday alternating weekly between being held at school and at St Helens Church. The service is led by a member of St Helens Church and includes prayer, song, stillness, reflection and responses.

### **Thursday** – Sing Praise

Children sing a wide range of hymns chosen by the two worship lead children. Prayer, stillness and reflection time close the worship.

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### **Friday – Celebration worship**

Awards are given for attainment and achievement which focus on the characteristics of effective learning. Children are celebrated with our school community and the two worship lead children liaise with others to choose entry/ exit music. Our whole school community are encouraged to also celebrate their achievements from outside school.

### **Each school Year –**

At the beginning of each school year we take time to reflect on our school vision, focusing on how it impacts our daily lives...in school, personally, in our community and within our church. We share this with our whole school community in church or during a special time in our school hall.

- The act of Collective Worship lasts 20 minutes and is held separate from notices
- Our worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring – explores our vision and how it underpins shared values and virtues within school
- Worship usually follows the structure; gathering, engaging, responding and sending
- Visitors are regularly invited to lead one of our acts of Collective Worship
- Worship lead children help to evaluate worship by observing worships and recording pupil voice
- Children from across the school lead worships throughout the year e.g. leading prayer and sharing reflections
- The Ethos group develop spirituality across the school and lead worship at the beginning of the half term to introduce our new Christian value
- The Church's calendar is observed - Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days
- The Eucharist is celebrated
- Children appreciate music on entry/ exit to Collective Worship which creates an atmosphere of reverence, stillness and reflection
- Stories and teachings from the Bible are used to explore our Christian values. Moral teachings and contemporary events are used when appropriate
- Collects and prayers from Common Worship are used as a focus for Collective Worship including the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Anglican responses e.g. *The Lord is here/ His Spirit is with us; Peace be with you/ and also with you; Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/ In the name of Christ, Amen* are used
- Governors join us throughout the year for worship and are pivotal in the planning and evaluation of our worship

### **SPIRITUALITY IN WORSHIP**

Spirituality is embedded throughout worship, please read on to understand how spirituality grows within our school for our whole school community.

It is a thread that runs throughout everything we do in school. It takes all the opportunities we offer and allows children time to think, to be lost in awe and wonder and to share their inner thoughts and feelings. It is also about our relationship with ourselves, others, the world and God.

Through stillness and reflection, as we embrace the present and are absorbed in the moment we connect with our emotions, our sense of who we are and begin to think about those deeper questions.

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Wherever they are, planned or unplanned in our day.....during these calm, quiet times we begin to challenge perceptions and allow ourselves time to view things from a different perspective.....to live it, to experience it with our sense and set an example to those around us. It even makes us aware of things bigger than ourselves and this often makes us say, 'Wow', but sometimes 'How?'. Through our environment, our connections with others and our vision we create an atmosphere that brings the best out of everybody for everybody. An environment which nurtures, surrounds us with love, embraces our uniqueness and allows us to be fulfilled as we flourish each and every day.

### **HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL BEING**

In collective worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. Appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'Online and Digital Safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked carefully by the worship leader, prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Similarly, pupils must be familiar with exit routes from St Helens Church. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCLUSION**

Collective worship is inclusive to all children. Collective worship challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions relating to the nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act. During collective worship, if other religions are referred to, this is in a fair and accurate manner, affirming diversity and equality.

### **RESOURCES**

A range of resources are available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and the use of appropriate websites to enhance worship is encouraged. An annual allocation, managed by the Headteacher, is available to purchase resources and for training purposes.

### **TRAINING**

Training by Chester Diocese is used together with support from our Vicar and our SIAMs working party.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

As part of the school's monitoring programme it is the role of the Collective Worship Lead, Headteacher and Foundation Governor to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to the Full Governing Body. This formal monitoring should take place three times per year and be reported. Monitoring and evaluation of collective worship should be on the agenda of the Full Governing Body meeting at least annually. Other governors are also invited to worship when attending school for formal monitoring visits.

The Collective Worship Lead monitors collective worship against the aims. Responses from children are gathered and recorded in the worship reflection book. Pupils are asked to comment on their experiences during pupil voice, further comments are invited from the School Council and staff. Each child has a Reflective Journal and are given opportunities to use these during the school day.

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**SELF-EVALUATION AND INSPECTION**

School self-evaluation is completed by the Headteacher, the Collective Worship lead, the R.E. lead and the SIAMS governing body committee. We are inspected by both SIAMS and Ofsted.

**PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship for any reason are supervised by a staff member. These children read or engage in a quiet activity.

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