

*Aspiring to inspire others towards excellence, developing as individuals together in a distinctively Christian environment.*

I Corinthians, 12:14 “For the body is not one member, but many”.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

*Our mission as a church school is to be – loving, welcoming and succeeding with faith, family and friendship at the centre of all that we do. The key Christian values that are the core of our school life are forgiveness, creation, koinonia, reverence, service, wisdom, trust and endurance.*

At Little Waltham CE VA Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Little Waltham CE VA Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian and other faiths calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

### **Church of England Guidance**

Collective worship policy at Little Waltham CE VA Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

## **Legal Requirements**

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Acts of worship in our school are explicitly Christian, although at times we hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **Aims**

Collective worship at Little Waltham Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.

- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

### Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. Please refer to the following rota.

Monday 9.10	Tuesday 9.10/10.10	Wednesday	Tuesday 9.10/10.10	Friday 9.10
Whole school worship led by HT or DHT.	Split Key stage worship	Class worship – led by CT.	Split Key stage worship	Whole School Worship and Celebrations

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. We use Anglican responses in our worship and three candles are lit to symbolize the trinity at the beginning of Collective Worship.

The head teacher and other members of staff conduct Collective Worship, and we also welcome local clergy or other representatives. Pupils often take an active role in worship such as leading prayers, leading our responses and leading class led worship. Children also reflect on the daily reflection question back in their classrooms.

Collective worship is planned around our weekly value, as well as being promoted throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus. We also celebrate and reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Our collective worship planner is available on the school website.

Our Friday Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. Our school awards are clearly focussed on our 'Six Super Skills': risk taker, keeping going, aiming high, enthusiastic, inquisitive, and adaptable – all of which link closely with our School Christian values. The children proudly display them on our Achievement Wall. The children play an important part in promoting the ethos and vision of the school, which is that all

children are valued and we are all working together to inspire each other to be the very best that we can.

Parents are invited to attend our Termly Church Worship at St. Martins or in school. We encourage parents/families to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home, school and Church work together to support the spiritual development of our children. We welcome governors to participate in our Collective Worship at any time.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Subject Leader arranges Worship Schemes and Rotas, invites the visiting clergy, and ensures our Collective Worship is well planned for and resourced.

The Subject leader liaises with the school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

**Signed:**

**Date Reviewed Autumn 2022**

**To be Reviewed Autumn 2023**