

# Westleigh Methodist Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Written by:	S Taylor
Date Agreed:	Summer 2022 - LAB
Next Review Date:	Summer 2025
Chairs Signature:	

## **Mission Statement**

**Westleigh Methodist Primary School aspires to be a Christian family where all can develop to their full potential.**

**We aim to promote the value of self, others and the environment**

### **Our Vision:**

We are a loving, inclusive family, rooted in our Christian Values and nurturing ethos. We provide a positive learning environment where all children can achieve their full potential.

The vision of Westleigh Methodist Primary School is to maintain a small, Christian school where the SLT and staff are knowledgeable about each child's abilities and challenges so that we can offer the most effective support for each individual child to meet those challenges, grow completely as a "well rounded" person and increase his/her skills to perform successfully in all academic areas. We believe that 'With God, all things are possible' – Matthew 19:26.

### **Or Mission:**

Underpinning our Mission Statement, we seek to sustain a Christian, educational community where:

- ✓ An emphasis on academic excellence is complemented by our concern for each learner's personal growth and spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, and psychological development.

The curriculum is developmentally responsive, actively engaging children in learning skills in a context; integrative – directing children to connect learning to daily lives; and exploratory – enabling children to discover their abilities, interests, learning styles, and ways that they can make contributions to society

## **Safeguarding Statement**

At the Westleigh Methodist Primary School we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors

# Collective Worship Policy

## 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

## 2. Policy aims

2.1. Collective worship at Westleigh Methodist Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Promote a growth mindset and support all pupils in their own well-being.

## 3. Definition of collective worship

3.1. For the purpose of this policy, "**collective worship**" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

3.2. To "**take part**" in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from

pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

#### **4. Organisation and planning**

- 4.1. The headteacher is responsible for creating the Long Term Plan for collective worship.
- 4.2. The act of worship, will be held for 20 minutes of the school day in the school hall for 4 days a week and in class exploring Picture News one day a week.
- 4.3. Each worship session held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher.
- 4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.5. The headteacher will establish a detailed plan for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- 4.6. The school will endeavour to teach the pupils a wide range of worship songs to sing during collective worship.
- 4.7. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

#### **5. Weekly collective worship programme**

- 5.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule for Collective Worship is outlined in the table below:

<b>Day of the week</b>	<b>Delivery of programme</b>
<b>Monday</b>	SLT member leads on collective worship in the hall with all year groups.

<b>Tuesday</b>	SLT member leads on collective worship in the hall with all year groups.
<b>Wednesday</b>	A collective worship will take place in each individual classroom, exploring current affairs using the resource 'Picture News'.
<b>Thursday</b>	SLT member leads on collective worship in the hall with all year groups.
<b>Friday</b>	SLT member leads on 'Celebration' Worship in the hall with all year groups.

5.2. Each class will present a whole school worship once during the school year where parents/carers are invited to attend. These are linked to our class Christian Values.

## **6. Implementation**

6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

## **7. Right to withdraw**

7.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.

- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

7.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

## **8. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities**

8.1. The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

8.2. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

9.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

9.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

9.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

9.4. The scheduled review date for this policy is Summer 2025.