

# Collective Worship Policy

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Agreed by Governors	Summer 2022
Date for Review	Summer 2025



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Aims and Purposes

At Westfield Infant School our aims and purposes of Collective Worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God
- enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- develop a common ethos with shared values to reinforce positive attitudes
- teach pupils how to worship.

### Collective Worship

At Westfield Infant School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly unless parents/carers have written to Governors requesting that their child be removed from this part of the curriculum.

The right of parents/carers to withdraw their children and the right of staff to withdraw from Collective Worship is respected.

The 1998 Education Act states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. At Westfield Infant School we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

### Organisation of Collective Worship

KS1 attend whole school assemblies four days a week. On Mondays, 'Roots and Fruits' are used to support an act of Collective Worship in each classroom/year group. Rooted in Bible teaching, twelve Christian values are taught over a two-year period: Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness. They represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life. These values also enhance our whole school approach to the Route to Resilience characteristics and British Values. The pattern of worship gives continuity and consistency across the school with language used to describe each element – Welcome, Learning, Reflecting and Responding. Each class has a candle which is turned on to signal the start of worship and our pupils value and respect this special time together. EYFS may use the 'Jack in the Box' resource and KS1 may use the 'Oscar out of the Box' resource to support Collective Worship as a result of curriculum monitoring discussions. Both follow the same pattern of worship as Roots and Fruits but at a level that is accessible to the age of our pupils.

At Westfield Infant School we conduct our assemblies in a calm and dignified way. We see assembly time as a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect pupils to behave in an appropriate way. Pupils are encouraged to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings. They are given the opportunity to participate in prayer

and hymns. As the pupils enter the hall, music is played to create an appropriate atmosphere and promote a calming influence.

The Headteacher, Deputy Head or other members of the teaching staff normally conduct assemblies. We have at least one assembly a week where representatives from a variety of different Christian denominations are invited to lead our assemblies. They liaise amongst themselves to present a variety of stories from The Bible in a lively way encouraging pupils to actively participate in role-play or action songs.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies mirror and build on the topics we teach as part of the school curriculum. Each class will present an assembly to the whole school during the Autumn and Spring term and each year group may share their learning experiences gained from educational visits in the Summer term. Class 7 pupils participate in their inclusion classes. Parents/Carers are invited to attend these assemblies and welcome the opportunity to congratulate their child immediately after their performance.

Our assembly themes also include the celebration of pupils' birthdays and achievements accomplished within school. The Westfield Bear assembly takes place on Wednesdays and offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements. Each week the Class Secretaries in Year 2 have the privilege of awarding a yellow Bear certificate to one of their peers. In addition to this, two pupils from each year group who have displayed the Route to Resilience characteristics will be rewarded with a Golden Ticket. This enables them to attend the Headteacher Tea Party on a Friday afternoon. The whole school sings the 'well done' song to congratulate those that have been recognised. A poster is also shared with the whole school, supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development throughout the week and new Makaton signs are shared to promote our inclusive ethos.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the pupils. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements are recognised. Westfield Infant School celebrates the successes of all pupils in our assemblies. We offer a variety of opportunities to celebrate pupils' achievements and successes both in and out of school. Pupils are encouraged to bring in any certificates of achievement and trophies to share these in the whole school assembly held on Fridays. These achievements are displayed on the board opposite the main reception desk.

We invite parents/carers and Governors to assemblies and encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school. It is also a practical demonstration of the way the home and school community work together to support the achievement of our pupils.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, parents/carers may withdraw their children from Religious Education and Religious Worship if they wish. Parents/Carers can request that a pupil be wholly or partly excused from Religious Education. Parents/Carers are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal; they are made aware of the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE and that it is relevant to all pupils, respecting their own personal beliefs. We are responsible for the supervision of any pupil withdrawn by their parents/carers from Religious Education and we ensure alternative provision. A pupil may, if the parent/carer requests this, be withdrawn from the school premises to receive Religious Education elsewhere, so long as the LA is satisfied that this will not interfere with the pupil's attendance at school other than at the beginning or end of any school session. Teachers who do not wish to participate in or conduct Religious Education also have a right of withdrawal.

## **Links with other Policies**

This policy has links with:

- All other curriculum policies
- Religious Education
- British Values
- SMSC Development
- PSHE and Citizenship
- Keeping Children Safe at Westfield Infant School (Prevent Appendix 5)
- Single Equality.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The RE curriculum subject leader monitors and evaluates the standards and quality of learning and teaching in Collective Worship through:

- monitoring the effectiveness of whole school assemblies and Collective Worship.

This policy will be reviewed during the Summer term of 2025 unless legislation changes and requires an earlier review.

Adopted by the Governing Board and Signed by



Chair of Governors

Date: 30.6.22