



# The Winterton Federation Collective Worship Policy



## Rationale

The Federation Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the Federation's aims and ethos.

### TWF Vision Statement

At The Winterton Federation, we endeavour to nurture unique individuals in a happy, safe, respectful and inclusive environment, where everyone is inspired to be the best they can be.

To be the Beacon for Learning

“The teaching of your word is light, so everyone can understand”

(Psalms (119:130))

We demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole Federation based on Christian values of Hope, Peace, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust.

At The Winterton Federation, we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the Federations distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all pupils.

Therefore, Collective Worship is planned to follow these main principles:

- Our daily act of collective worship follows the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 **“Collective Worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”**;
- We believe that Collective Worship has a central role in developing and reflecting the ethos of the Federation and the promotion of a community built around Christian values;
- Our Collective Worship reflects the Christian foundation of the Federation but there are occasions when other faiths are the focus during Collective Worship (e.g. festivals, holy days etc.);
- We believe that Collective Worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum offered to all pupils and essential in supporting our Federation philosophy to develop the whole child;
- We believe that as a Federation (Winterton Church of England Infants' School and Winterton Junior School) we can draw upon elements of our Anglican heritage to provide a supportive framework for Collective Worship.

## Our Aims

Collective Worship aims to:

- Introduce pupils to many aspects of Christian worship, regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching relating to our Federation's core Christian values (Hope, Peace, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust);
- To be inspirational and inclusive. We engage all learners and enable them to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the Federation. It will provide a time for the whole Federation family to come together with a sense of belonging;
- Have a strong focus on the Anglican tradition and affirm the core Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all pupils to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- Help all pupils to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide;
- Challenge all pupils of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural journey;
- Provide an opportunity to share joy and sadness;



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- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all pupils with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to";
- Be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the Federation, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals and special occasions throughout the year;
- Provide a time for stillness when children can reflect on their actions and own personal thoughts, symbolised by the lighting of a candle and sharing the gathering prayer;
- Provide an opportunity for opening up the school context to the wider community, in a time of mutual sharing and understanding;
- Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

### **Statutory Duty of the Federation**

All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all pupils although parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship and this policy does not affect that right. The Executive Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship.

Parents are made aware of their right through The Winterton Federation Website. Arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship to be supervised. Teaching and support staff have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

### **Organisation**

#### **Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Certain named individuals (Mrs Logan, Mrs Taylor, Mr Downs and Miss Thompson) are involved on a regular basis within the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term including the Collective Worship Council and Collective Worship Leaders.

#### **Pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole school worship is held every day in the form of Choral Worship and Celebration Assembly, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance. Parents may be invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development. These are linked to the current Christian core value for the half term.

Visitors are welcomed into Collective Worship and have a weekly representative, on a rotation basis, from the All Saints Church, Methodist Church, Evangelical Church and our Bishop's Visitor on a half-termly basis.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship include 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;



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- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance.

At the end of each term there is a special achievement assembly where selected children from each class receives recognition from the Executive Headteacher, receiving a Butterfly or Owl badge and certificate.

### **Character of Collective Worship**

Specific time is set aside for Collective Worship and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We create an atmosphere sympathetic to the separate and special nature of worship by:

- ◆ Entering Collective Worship in a variety of ways. These include playing music at the beginning as Handel's Messiah, Gospel music, hymns, music from other cultures, music chosen by the children or staff), entering in choral worship or entering in silence
- ◆ Providing a focus table at Winterton C of E Infants' School (which includes a candle, focus objects linked to the Christian value we are reflecting upon, a prayer book and a seasonal coloured tablecloth linked to the liturgical calendar);
- ◆ Arranging seating to emphasise a sense of school community;
- ◆ Lighting a candle to encourage the children to reflect on their own personal experiences and feelings;
- ◆ Collective worship leaders at Winterton C of E Infants' School (two children from Year 2) commence worship by beginning the gathering prayer to symbolise school community worship has started;
- ◆ At WJS the person leading the worship chooses whether or not singing or prayer/reflection is appropriate for the subject matter. There is no set procedure to follow and variety of content is encouraged.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'.

A sending task is given to the children at the end of Monday's Collective Worship (WIS) and may be given at the WJS. The task is linked to the theme for the week and is completed by a specific year group for that week within classroom time. Tasks are then shared with the whole school family the following week and displayed on our 'Following in Jesus' Footsteps' display board.

**At WIS** a Collective Worship Council meets twice a term led by the worship co-ordinator to plan and discuss Collective Worship sessions. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Collective Worship Council committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

**At WJS** themes are planned on a termly basis to include:

- Self-awareness, Rules and Responsibilities;
- Managing Feelings and Empathy;
- Self-Motivation;
- Social Skills;
- Comparative religions.



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### Elements which may be included in Collective Worship

- ◆ Active pupil participation including active involvement from the Collective Worship Council, Collective Worship Leaders and other children within worship;
- ◆ Gathering Prayer, response prayer, prayer's written by the children, teaching of the Lord's Prayer;
- ◆ Use of symbols including those from different faiths where appropriate;
- ◆ Use of artefacts and visual representation/video links where appropriate;
- ◆ Focussed reflection upon one of our schools' six Christian values;
- ◆ Music- religious, linked to themes or topics;
- ◆ Silence and meditation as a means of reflection;
- ◆ The Bible, stories and poetry - these could include stories from our two core bibles: Bob Hartmann or;
- ◆ Drama - led by children from the Collective Worship Council;
- ◆ Songs/hymns during Choral Worship linked to the current themes.
- ◆ Response - children are encouraged to participate within collective worship and share their thoughts and understanding of Christian values;
- ◆ Visitors - including visitors of different faiths, representatives from the Diocese;
- ◆ Pupils' work and prayers.

### The Environment for Collective Worship

We believe that the distinctive nature of the Federation should be evident in the environment. At WIS we have a large wooden cross which the School Council decided should be displayed in the school hall. There is a Collective Worship display board, 'Following in Jesus' Footsteps', which supports the half-termly theme and children add their own contributions to this through weekly response tasks. We have a prayer tree and box where pupils, staff and visitors can post a prayer which will then be used in Collective Worship. R.E. work by the children is celebrated and displayed in the hall and around school.

At WJS we encourage the use of artefacts; video and music in worship. At certain times throughout the year a special table and candle may be used.

### Pupil Responsibility

At WIS Collective Worship is set up and organised by our Collective Worship Leaders. These are two pupils who have been selected from Year Two. Pupils have responsibility for setting up and clearing away our focus assembly table. This includes using a cloth embroidered with the school logo, a candle for reflection time, and appropriate artefacts. They choose which cross to put on the table. They also collect the candles and birthday badges for celebrating birthdays as a school family. They close the hall curtains to signal that the whole school family is assembled. They also lead the gathering prayer and support in lighting of our candles.

At WJS pupils are involved in some assemblies; set out chairs and organise the music.

### Planning for Collective Worship

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Miss Emma Thompson, Collective Worship leader.

### Winterton Church of England Infants' School Long Term



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Collective Worship is planned based on a rotation of our six core Christian values.

### **Medium Term**

The Collective Worship Leader, plans a programme for the term which is based upon the Syllabus Roots and Fruits 1 and 2. This is circulated to all leaders of Collective Worship, and emailed to all staff so that they may be incorporated or expanded upon in their teaching of R.E.

### **Weekly**

Individual assemblies are planned/adapted in further detail by members of staff and visitors who conduct them.

### **Winterton Junior School**

#### **Long Term**

Collective Worship is planned around the ethos and values of the school including core Christian values.

#### **Medium Term**

A programme for the term is planned based on values of the Federation. This is the circulated to all staff.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

The impact of Collective Worship on school life is evaluated through pupil interviews, staff, parent, governor and visitor feedback.

### **Resources**

Resources for Collective Worship are available in the Collective Worship Leaders classroom, along with linked resources/texts.

### **Inclusion**

All children are included in acts of Collective Worship (unless parents request otherwise). Planning takes account of the age, abilities and understanding of the pupils. Help and advice can be sought from the S.E.N. co-ordinator.

### **Professional Development**

Courses on Collective Worship are available through the Diocese and LA. Professional development needs of staff are identified through the Performance Management process and in accordance with our **Staff Development** policy.

### **Enhancement Activities**

We are proud of our strong links with All Saint's Church and our local Methodist Church and regularly share acts of Collective Worship. For example, the end of term Carol service which is held in the Church. The school choir often perform at Church events such as the Christingle service.

***Collective Worship Policy written by Ros Taylor: Summer 2021***

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***Policy approved by Governors: Autumn 2021***

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