



Witchampton CE VA First School Collective Worship Policy

Rationale:

Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school, in accordance with our Anglican foundation. As a Christian community, we promote a growing appreciation of the Christian way of life and of religious belief. Children are helped to develop personal and moral values, to show respect for other people and their way of life and an awareness and appreciation of the wonderful world we have been given to live in and care for. It is an opportunity to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection.

We recognize that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

1 Aims

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God;
- to encourage prayer for individual and community needs;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to foster a sense of community within the school and beyond it;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

2 Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of Witchampton First School as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written

request to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 Collective Worship is a special time which is shared by the whole school. An appropriate ambience is created by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 Collective Worship themes are planned each half term. "Values for Life" is used as a resource to support the teaching of Christian values. They are often linked with curriculum themes or special occasions and festivals through which these values can be developed.

There is flexibility in the planning, so that national or international incidents, or local circumstances affecting members of our "Witchampton Family", can be considered in a sensitive manner where appropriate.

3.4 At Witchampton First School, we encourage the children to participate in the assemblies through the selection and performance of music and contributing to prayer. They are encouraged to contribute to the special focus area which is linked to the worship theme. Collective Worship provides an opportunity for children to celebrate their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and achievements are recognised.

3.5 Governors are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate in Collective Worship.

3.6 Special celebrations are held during the school year, linked to Church festivals and school events to which parents and visitors are invited. These celebrations may be held in Witchampton Church.

3.7 Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship, led by Mrs Duncan/Mrs Otton
Tuesday	Hymn practice and worship, led by Mrs Morris Duffin
Wednesday	Whole school worship, led by Mrs Harlow
Thursday	Individual class worship, led by class teachers
Friday	Whole school worship, led by Mrs Williams/Mrs Goodwin, which includes a celebration of the Stars of the Week.

Dr Anne Gee from Witchampton Church or visitors, including clergy from other churches, are invited to lead Collective Worship. There are regular contributions from Dorset County Evangelists and the Methodist Chapel.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Collective worship is evaluated each half term. This evaluation is used to develop the planning of themes and delivery of Collective Worship.

5.2 The responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body.

Signed:

Date: