



**Collective Worship Policy**  
**Implementation Date – September 2020**  
**Review Date – September 2023**

## **Collective Worship Policy Document**

Collective Worship is central to the life of The Whitchurch C.E. Federation. It offers an opportunity for the whole federation community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Christian character and our federation aims as a whole. It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are inclusive, educational, God centred and affirm Christian beliefs and that underpin the key British Values in both academies.

Our Collective Worship also fosters an environment where children can experience feelings of 'Awe and Wonder' and explore their own spirituality.

### **Legal Requirements:**

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of each of the academies. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

We ensure that worship is:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders.

### **Aims of the Federation:**

At The Whitchurch C.E. Federation, our view is that education is for life, "Learning as we Grow. Growing as we learn. Rooted in Jesus." Worship is at the very heart of nurturing this growth and supporting our vision for the federation.

### **Federation Mission Statement:**

To create a welcoming and inclusive environment in which all children will flourish. Every child is encouraged to care for, respect and appreciate the ultimate worth of others, developing positive relationships as they take their first steps towards becoming responsible, thoughtful and confident adults of the future, making successful contributions to their local and the global community.

### **Academy Values:**

As a federated Church of England Academies, we believe it is important to develop Christian values by which to live well together and which help to develop a moral and spiritual awareness.

Our core Christian value is Love. Across our Federation everyone is encouraged to love and respect themselves, others, God and his world. The Bible tells us that, *"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."* (1 John 4:16).

The value of 'Love' underpins everything we do in our Federation. We believe that through a focus on Love, by working together as part of a strong and supportive family, we can all achieve more – *"Love your neighbour as yourself."* Matthew 22:38

Each Academy has identified several other Christian values to explore in more detail, through acts of worship and our curriculum.

The gifts of 'Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Trust and Peace' are the values we hope and aspire that our children will foster during their time at our Infant Academy.

As our children continue their learning journey through our Junior Academy, we focus on the additional values of 'Courage, Responsibility, Creativity, Perseverance and Compassion'.

### **Federation Aims:**

Our aims have been carefully aligned to respect those of the St Bart's Multi-Academy Trust which are represented through the acronym PEACE.

#### **P – Passion.**

We are privileged to work in education and have the opportunity to change children's lives. We want to offer our children;

- ✚ a safe and secure environment where all children are encouraged to be positive about their learning, aspire to realise their full ability and take pride in their achievements; and to
- ✚ nurture, in all children, a respect for the spiritual, moral and cultural values of races, religions and ways of life different to their own, celebrating difference and diversity.

#### **E – Encouraging.**

As educators, we all have a duty to be encouraging and supportive of each other, our children and our community. We will;

- ✚ encourage children to care for themselves, being healthy in mind, body and spirit, as well as being respectful of the needs of others and the community and environment in which they live.

- ✚ value and promote the active involvement of parents, carers and the community in supporting the education and well-being of our children.

### **A – Ambition.**

We aim for excellence by;

- ✚ promoting and providing inclusive "can do" practice which emphasises hope, security, stability and success for all our children.
- ✚ continuously striving to improve as a learning community respecting the ideas and contributions of all.

### **C – Commitment.**

We are committed to our Christian Foundations and seek to;

- ✚ enable children to participate in daily acts of Collective Worship which are central to our Church School community, contributing towards the spiritual development of both children and adults.
- ✚ provide high quality religious education that supports children to develop religious literacy.

### **• E – Enjoyment.**

We want our children to enjoy their learning and will achieve this by;

- ✚ Helping children develop lively, enquiring minds by providing a stimulating, creative and challenging curriculum in which learning is enjoyable and fun.
- ✚ Motivating and engaging children through inspirational teaching which provides the children with the skills, knowledge, confidence and self-esteem that will enable them to foster a fascination with the world around us.

Together we celebrate our Christian Values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of participants. Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith but accessible to all members of the federation community and supports the core British Values to which we adhere.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

Collective worship at The Whitchurch C.E. Federation aims to:

- ✚ Understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey.

- ✚ Choose themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct.
- ✚ Enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers.
- ✚ Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on their work, relationships and the schools key Christian values. The values are rooted in the Bible; many being drawn from the teaching of Jesus. They can therefore be described as Christian Values, though may also be seen as touching on what it means to be fully human and a British Citizen.
- ✚ Celebrate achievements of members of the federation. Each class will identify key Christian values the children have demonstrated throughout the week, which are shared in the Celebration worship and displayed on our Hands on our Heart display.

### **Management of Collective Worship:**

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Local Governing Committee, Executive Principal, Heads of School, staff and federation community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the academies.

The worship co-ordinators have responsibility for managing collective worship on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

This involves the planning of a programme for collective worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals and the way that these link with the values and life of the federation.

A range of members from the federation community, including church representatives, contribute to this planning.

The worship co-ordinators also have responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.

The Executive Principal, Heads of School and worship co-ordinators are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the academies are striving to ensure that worship develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in the inspection criteria.

### **Right to Withdraw:**

At The Whitchurch CE Federation, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience,

without giving reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the Head of School who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the federation and set out the options open to parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects.

### **Organisation, Style and Character:**

All children have the opportunity to participate in an act of worship on a daily basis. These take different forms;

- whole school worship led by staff and pupils
- Classroom based worship
- Whole school worship led by visitors, including from the local Church.

The following areas and practices are applied in whole academy and class based worship.

### **Worship Monitors:**

At the start of worship, the worship monitors select a Bible, candle and cross and place these on the worship table.

### **The format**

Each Collective Worship follows an agreed format, with Christian values as a key focus;

#### **✝ Welcome**

✝ **Learn:** Sharing a story Jesus told or a story from the Bible (or similar).

✝ **Reflect:** this is an opportunity for stillness and quiet. This reflection time gives the children an opportunity to think about their learning and make a response internally.

✝ **Respond:** A candle is lit to signify reflection time. A short prayer is shared followed by our Blessing Prayer.

During Celebration Worship, we celebrate amongst other achievements, the values that have been most commonly demonstrated in class.

Music is played to create a suitable mood as children enter and leave Worship.

In addition, the academies worship in Church on the following occasions:

- Christmas / Easter
- Leaver's Service

Parents are always invited to these services.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

### **Resources**

The Imaginor resources are used each term and resources are shared on the federation website to develop the link with parents and the wider community.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

During worship the children learn about what it means to be spiritual in the broadest of terms. Through worship and prayer, they have the opportunity to nurture their own spiritual development. By exploring Bible stories and discussing values, the children learn to explore moral ideals and issues.

Learning about a range of celebrations and discovering other faiths allows the children to foster an understanding of a wide range of cultures.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.