

Wye Forest Federation

Redbrook Church of England Primary School

St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

This policy was agreed by the Full Governing Body on: (and supersedes all previous policies relating to this area)	21.3.24
Implemented:	March 2024
Revised	
Review date:	March 2026

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Name of School: Wye Forest Federation:

St Briavels Parochial c of E Primary School

Redbrook C of E Primary School

The Christian Vision of Wye Forest Federation:

Love, Learn, Live

Love is at the centre of our federation with the importance of developing the whole child at the heart of all we do.

As a nurturing, inclusive community we enable and engage all to grow, flourish and succeed; discovering a **love** for one another, for **learning** and for **life**.

We seek to inspire ambition, courage and respect to give our children the skills they will need to live in a diverse and ever- changing world now and in the future.

Courage, Compassion, Respect, Resilience

A Theologically Rooted Christian Vision for All

The theme of love runs throughout the Bible v1 John 4:8 directly says “God is Love”.

We know that love is important in personal development be it love for yourself or for others. This leads us to Mark 12:31 “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

We want our children to develop as loving, inclusive citizens of the world capable of flourishing beyond our care.

At the WFF we have expressed how everything we do, no matter how difficult comes from a place of love, compassion and inclusivity.

Our Aims

At the Wye Forest Federation, we want all of our children to:

- develop a love for learning;
- become **resilient**, ambitious citizens who have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life now and in the future.
- have opportunities to learn academically, vocationally, socially and spiritually; to be **courageous** and take personal responsibility for their learning and actions
- develop understanding, **respect** and **compassion** for each other and the diverse world we live in, through learning about ourselves, different cultures, religions and families.
- experience a broad, relevant and inspiring curriculum within an environment that is both physically and emotionally safe and develops the whole child.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in the Wye Forest Federation should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The federation governors have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

School Statement on Collective Worship

In the Wye Forest Federation worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

However, in the Wye Forest Federation, the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

“Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope”¹

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths²) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.³ Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

¹ CEE Vision statement “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good” Autumn 2016

² Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

³ “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

Aims and Guiding Principles

Collective worship in the Wye Forest Federation aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults' in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Provide an opportunity to experience the Eucharist through an agreed service or experience (agreed with the local incumbent and the Diocese of Gloucester)
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- Through the words that we always use, children and adults are invited to join the worship in prayer, song and reflection.

Organisation

Leadership

- Daily worship is led by a range of people in our school community including the Executive Headteacher, the class teachers and our Open the Book team.
- Our local incumbent is part of our governing board and joins us for our Open the Book workshops as well as special services throughout the year which are often held in the church

Planning

- The worship lead plans the annual overview, termly overview and weekly overview for worship.
- Staff undertake annual training linked to worship planning and teachers are encouraged to plan worship for their classes with the support of the assistant worship leads.
- Children are involved in the planning and leading of all of our special services.
- A group of Year 6 children take an active part in whole school worship.

- Worship follow the cycle of the Church year acknowledging important times and dates in the Christian calendar.
- It is enhanced by the focus on big questions linked to our Christian values and themes relevant to our vision and then a smaller weekly focus designed to help unpick this.
- Bible stories are selected to reflect the exploration of our weekly focus. They encourage children to consider the focus and answer how and why questions about it.
- A pattern for worship is always the same and follows the structure of Gathering Together; Discovering Together; Reflecting Myself, Responding Together; Moving On Together. This follows the pattern of the Anglican tradition.
- A range and variety of materials are used to inspire and provoke thought.
- It is designed to provide opportunities for children and adults to explore faith in today's world; to explore the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and allow for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection

Organisation

- Worship is held daily in either whole school and class groups.
- In our hall and classroom, a reflection table is used as a focal point for worship.
- Worship may also be held outdoors in good weather or in our local churches.
- Whole school worship is held at 3pm in both schools and class worship is held at a time chosen by the class teacher and this is clearly timetabled. Worship is between 15 and 20 minutes long.
- All staff are invited to join worship and all teaching staff lead their own class worship. Many get involved with whole school worship too.

Collective Worship – Weekly Plan					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Focus for the Day	St Bs: Bible story/ verse Redbrook: Class worship - Digging Deeper	St Bs: Class worship - Digging Deeper Redbrook: Bible story/ verse	Both Schools: No Outsiders	Both schools: Celebration	Both Schools: Open the Book

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

Worship is monitored and evaluated by a range of stakeholders regularly, including governors, staff and children.

A monitoring and evaluation form (appendix 1) is part of our medium term worship planning document and can be accessed by all. We are also able to monitor worship using our Nautillus software.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document and our RE policies for each school.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community
- We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback from parents, staff or pupils.

The governing body is responsible for approving this policy.

Appendix 1

Monitoring & Evaluating Collective Worship	
Date:	
Venue:	
Leader:	
School's Vision:	
Theme & Biblical basis of worship:	
	Feedback and reflection
Gathering together	
Discovering together	
Reflecting Myself, Responding Together	
Moving On Together	
Possible next steps	