



Worship Policy 2025-2026

Friendship, Community, Faith

WHITLEY CHAPEL C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

INTRODUCTION

‘Friendship, Community, Faith’

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.’ Colossians 3:23-24

Our aim is to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice, in a happy, secure and well-disciplined environment. We encourage an understanding of the **meaning and significance of faith** and promote Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils.

At Whitley Chapel C of E First School, Collective Worship is about developing an awareness of God’s love and truth and how it plays out in our lives. Every day includes an act of worship which seek to focus this awareness in different ways. Through prayer and praise, through silence and reflection, through reading the Bible and applying it to our lives. Each act of worship is approximately fifteen to twenty minutes in duration.

Our aim is to promote spiritual development in this Christian context, to create a sense of belonging in a community of faith and to encourage the practice of the Christian values.

Acts of Collective Worship at Whitley Chapel C of E First School are entirely Christian in nature. At other times, there may be assemblies that demonstrate how other religions engage in worship and what other religions believe. But our daily acts of worship are of an Anglican character and are entirely Christian in content.

How Collective Worship is organised

Themes for Collective Worship are planned at the beginning of each term by the Head Teacher. These are based around the Church Calendar and mark the key events of the Church year, but are also supplemented with themes for reflection or Bible themes based on particular Christian values, characters or stories,

Worship also includes songs. Pupils love to praise God, or learn scripture through song, and take an active part in interpreting worship in movement and actions, in a range of songs from a variety of different Christian settings and cultures.

Active involvement is a very important part of our Collective worship; pupils enjoy contributing items of news, concern and celebration for Family Prayers, which is led weekly by our Chair of Governors, Reverend Andrew Patterson. We join daily in saying together the Lord’s Prayer, and care is taken to ensure that the Lord’s prayer appears in a regular cycle of worship themes, so that all pupils understand what they are saying. However, pupils are also made aware that prayer is an agreement together, and that joining in is a choice if they can understand and support what is being shared.

Once a term, each year group is invited to help plan an act of Collective worship based on the theme for that week. They work together with a Teaching Assistant to put together prayers

dramas or reflections to share with the rest of school. These will take place at the end of the day on a Friday so that parents who are coming to collect their children at the end of the day can also attend if they wish.

Collective worship is an important part of developing the ethos of the Christian family in our small school. We also share core values through our assemblies, where pupils are encouraged to reflect on the way in which their actions demonstrate love and understanding towards others.

Our school hall is planned to reflect a sense of worship, with a display board which celebrates a particular aspect of RE that is currently being covered, and an artwork designed by past pupils.

Our Worship is organized into four distinctive sections as outlined below. As the children enter the hall, calming music is played and natural visuals are shown. The worship box is made a focal point and the liturgical colour cloth covers the worship table.

1. The Gathering

TWO WORSHIP LEADERS FROM YEAR 4 stand at the front and will carry out the following greeting

- Leader - Peace be with you
- Response - And also with you (all children)
- Leader - The Lord be with you
- Response - And also with you (all children)
- Leader - We light this candle in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Engaging

This will be the main part in an act of worship. In Whitley Chapel First School, we encourage children to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching, and most importantly, with God. We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We are listening for God's message to us.

- Will the Bible text / story be read out, displayed, watched?
- How can it be interactive / engaging?
- Storytelling Story sack? Using story book and Bible resources Video clips

I wonder questions

- I wonder what part of the story you liked best?
I wonder what part of the story was the most important?
- I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community?
- I wonder why xxx told this story?
I wonder why Christians might think this story is special?

Responding

For every child and adult present, some response should be possible. All should understand that this is time set aside for deep thought and for each to respond in an appropriate way.

Time for Reflection

- Will you spend time thinking or reflecting? Will you pray? Will you do something practical as a response? How?

- How will you allow your class to respond?
- How will you link it to real life ('take it back to the playground or at home') or events in the local community or world?
- How will you incorporate reflection, silence or stillness into worship?
- What opportunities will there be for formal or informal prayer?

Sending

Think about

- What thought will you send your class out with as they leave or finish the act of worship?
- What special words, final blessing or prayer will be used as the worship finishes?
- How will you signal that worship has ended?

Leader - **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord**

Response - in the name of Christ our Lord (all children)

The school holds acts of worship in the church of St Helen's Whitley Chapel for the special festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Pupils also help to lead services for Lent and Remembrance Day. Parents and members of the local church community are encouraged to attend these events.

Weekly Overview				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School: 3pm-3.20pm	Whole School: 3pm-3.20pm	Class Worship	Class Worship	Class Worship
Assembly based on basic Christian Values	Worship led by Rev Andrew Patterson. This worship time allows further development of the theme/Bible passage and time for singing, drama and reflection, and gives opportunities for pupils to share news, concerns and items for collective prayer and family prayers,	Assembly based on basic Christian Values	Assembly based on our own school Christian Values	Assembly based on basic Christian Values

Prayer also takes place at lunchtimes, to express gratitude for God's provision, and at home time, to ask for his care and keeping throughout the rest of the day. It is an important part of the rhythm of daily school life. All classrooms have their own Prayer space for prayers when required.

Prayer and Reflection space

The size of the building makes it difficult to include a prayer space in every classroom. For this reason, we have set aside a special area in the corridor leading off the hall, where children can come with a teaching assistant or on their own to spend a few minutes in quiet reflection. This space is also used for sitting together to plan class prayers, and for reading Bible or other reflective stories in groups, and for special Prayer Space activities, such as making artefacts to encourage prayer, and special communal displays.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Whitley Chapel C of E First School is an inclusive school and acts of worship reflect this. We incorporate a global dimension into worship and ensure visual images represent our diverse heritage, and choose songs from across all continents.

Our worship is drawn from the traditions and liturgy of the Anglican Communion worldwide, and we seek to be ecumenical, to include people from all the Christian denominations and all cultures. People of other faiths are also welcome to participate as they wish.

We seek to include every child in acts of Christian worship. We recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship and this is respected.

Document Details

Last Ratification - June 2025

Next Ratification - June 2026