

White Laith Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Agreed by Governors: February 2022

Review Date: February 2025

Safeguarding

At White Laith we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Ensuring good behaviour is particularly important for this. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by or invited to deliver services at White Laith. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

We also exercise this responsibility by educating our children so that they grow in their understanding of their rights and responsibilities to themselves and others, in safety consciousness, and, in their maturity and abilities to keep themselves and others safe.

We perceive this to be part of our role in promoting British values

Aims:

- To foster a sense of community, a common ethos and shared values
- Provide time for reflection on spiritual and moral issues and values that are of a broadly Christian nature
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to consider and explore their own beliefs and those of other people
- Promote respect for individuals and faiths
- Provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Provide opportunities to celebrate such things as achievement and special occasions

The value of collective worship

The school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of our school and to the society and world in which we live. We aim for our programme of collective worship to enrich the life of school in many ways and try to be creative and imaginative in organising this provision. We believe that collective worship:

- Offers space for the **school community** to learn, grow and celebrate together;
- Provides an opportunity for **personal reflection** on individual life or wider issues;
- Nurtures all aspects of **SMSC development**, especially spiritual development;
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of **fundamental values**;
- Enables us to meet and engage with the **local community** through participants in assemblies;
- Responds to **topical or local issues** in a flexible and sensitive way;
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to **develop their own abilities** in preparing, presenting or evaluating assemblies.

We see collective worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Implementation:

Collective worship normally takes place as follows:

Monday: Whole school assembly

Tuesday: Class reflection time

Wednesday: Class reflection time

Thursday: Whole school assembly/singing

Friday: Class reflection time or whole school celebration assembly

The content of assemblies reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and address a range of issues related to community, living peacefully together, personal safety, self-esteem and self-belief, respect for others. Pupils are not expected to align themselves with any religious belief – we have a school which is inclusive of all faiths and none and we endeavour to learn from the different beliefs and values in our world.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Assemblies include the opportunity for quiet, thoughtful reflection and this may include the use of prayers, poetry, music, questions, pictures, candles or objects to focus the attention of the children. Sensitivity is used to ensure that prayer or other forms of spirituality are as inclusive as possible.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for 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 all achievements are recognised. We are a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Throughout the year, there are particular assemblies that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher and other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

The Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character collective worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of collective worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for collective worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However, it is always good practice to arrange to discuss this with parents if a request emerges. There may be issues about a particular aspect of the programme which may be allayed after discussion. If the parent still feels they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. This must be allowed by the school, which also needs to provide alternative activity and supervision for this pupil. In general terms, it is always wise to have good communication with, and information available to, parents.

Planning and Recording:

At White Laith Primary School the Headteacher is the co-ordinator of Collective Worship, and communicates directly with the RE and PSHE leaders.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Collective Worship will be monitored by the governing body through attendance at assemblies, scrutiny of records and interviews with staff and pupils – these will be reported back to the full governing body. The Headteacher and governing body will evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship.