

Assembly & Collective Worship Policy

**West Rise Community Primary
School and Nursery**



December 2025

INTRODUCTION

As outlined in the DfE circular 1/94, it a legal requirement that all maintained Schools in England provide a daily act of worship which should be wholly or mainly of a Christian character for the majority of the time. It must also be 'appropriate', having respect to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the children.

Families who send their children to this school are from a range of faith backgrounds and from non- religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children.

The faith or 'non faith' background of both the child's family and of staff is respected at all times.

DEFINITION

Collective Worship is a time for our school community to be reflective and thoughtful each day. It aims to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth value and respect. It offers time to consider, question, reflect and to consider life's big questions around the purpose and meaning of life. Collective worship offers awe and wonder of e.g., the natural world, reverence and respect for all we are and have and a sense of belonging to the community.

AIMS

At West Rise Community Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship should support and reflect what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring 'Wellbeing First' ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship.

In our acts of Collective Worship we aim to contribute to;

1. the **spiritual** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to develop the spiritual skills of:
 - creating a still and peaceful mind;
 - remaining focused and present;
 - trusting and developing trust
 - reflecting on ideas concerning the concept of beauty, goodness and truth.
2. the **moral** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
 - hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified;
 - learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.
3. the **social** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - gather with others for a common purpose;
 - share times of joy and sadness with others
 - learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting;
 - increase self-confidence in public speaking/dramatic performance
 - express their own thoughts, feelings and ask questions.
4. the **cultural** development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - hear and respond to music from a range of times, places and cultures;
 - appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.
 - gain understanding of their own culture and the culture of the school

- explore faith group practices and traditions

5. the **intellectual** development of pupils by providing the opportunity to:

- learn and to engage their minds;
- have ideas concerning values confirmed or challenged;
- reflect on the importance of learning in the context of our school community
- consider the power of words, knowledge and meaning

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

In our school we combine our Acts of Worship with Assembly and with Wellbeing First mindful practices. These take place mainly in the classroom but also in the School Hall. Whole School/Key Stage Assemblies are delivered by the Headteacher, Deputy/Assistant Headteacher or by class teachers. The children in the Foundation Stage do not regularly attend Assemblies with Collective Worship unless it is a special occasion. They are introduced to this in the Summer Term as part of transition to Year One.

Music is played at the beginning and end of each Assembly/Collective Worship held in the hall. Collective Worship held in classrooms can be held for a shorter time than a full school act of Worship, while still following the themes that run throughout the year and reflecting the needs and issues of the class.

The daily arrangement is as follows:

Monday	Classroom based Christian Values /Wellbeing Assembly
Tuesday	KS1&2/ Assembly/Collective worship
Wednesday	KS1&2/ Assembly/Collective worship
Thursday	Singing Together Assembly
Friday	Celebration Assembly/ Collective Worship

Assemblies and Collective Worship are planned around broad themes, cultural festivals, moral dilemmas, major religions and the

West Rise Wellbeing Curriculum. Staff are asked to follow up the ideas that have been introduced in class.

Collective Worship can be delivered in a variety of ways, including

- Stories
- Music
- Artefacts
- Powerpoint presentations or video clips
- Focal points e.g a picture, picture frame, stone, shell or candle
- Visitors
- And usually lots of discussion!

Pupils are encouraged to participate in a meaningful way

- Acting out a story
- Miming to a story
- Being encouraged to ask and answer questions
- Hot seating
- Thought of the day/week
- Paired discussions and feedback

During Collective Worship, whether whole school or in class, there must be a time for quiet reflection/prayer in order for it to comply with legal requirements. Pupils must be allowed to respond in ways that are appropriate to them. All Acts of Collective Worship involve a time for quiet reflection, introducing the children to the skill and state of quiet mindfulness.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship – in the larger group assemblies in the hall this includes the lighting of a candle.

VISITORS

Visitors are invited to contribute to or lead Assemblies/Acts of Collective Worship from time to time. We endeavour to choose a range of visitors who can communicate well with children. We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our School Worship, but we require them to adhere to our values.

Visitors might include:

- Church of England Minister
- Community Church members
- Jewish Rabbi
- Muslim parents
- Jewish parents
- Methodist Church minister
- Members of our local community

Visitors may include prayers if they are considered appropriate, but the response should be left open, and the children to be told that this is a Christian, Muslim, Jewish prayer as appropriate.

MUSIC

Song/music is a powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We recognise that there might be some words which some of our children would find offensive to sing. We have changed the words of some of the songs to make them more inclusive. We have a bank of music from which to draw, from a variety of cultures and types.

When we have a music assembly, we take time to consider carefully the words of one of the songs and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to that song.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. They are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Teachers can also exercise their right from leading or attending acts of collective worship, on the grounds of religious conscience.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We offer equality of educational opportunity to all pupils, and seek to develop their interests, abilities, skills and gifts. Race and gender are not stereotyped. All children are entitled to participate in

Collective Worship regardless of gender, race, special needs or culture.

EVALUATION

We evaluate our acts of Worship against:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of children
- The extent to which children take the thoughts/ideas presented in assembly into their everyday lives, sharing their thoughts with teachers and parents
- The growth of respect and responsibility within the school community
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- A sense of awe and engagement
- A sense of challenge
- An atmosphere of quiet contemplation

