



Collective Worship Policy

Implementation Date – January 2024

Review Date – January 2027

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, and worship is at the very heart of nurturing this growth and supporting our vision for the federation. Our children are immersed in our vision and values for living successful lives, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Luke 10 25:37

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.

Christian Distinctiveness from Our Federation: Whitchurch Infant and Nursery Church of England Academy and Whitchurch Junior Church of England Academy

Our aims and values are firmly based on Christian principles and in particular we wish to promote racial harmony and social cohesion in our local community.

“Learning to Love God and Love our Neighbour as Ourselves.”

We are proud to be federated Church of England academies at the heart of the community of Whitchurch.

An inclusive family under God, welcoming everyone into our friendly, respectful and caring Federation.

We aim to provide an aspirational curriculum and supportive working environment to enable every individual to reach their full potential.

“Learning to Love God and Love our Neighbour as Ourselves”

Luke 10: 25-37

As 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).

Love

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.”
(Luke 10:27)

The Good Samaritan

Compassion

Helps us to foster a nurturing environment, supporting one another, promoting empathy and inclusivity.

(Luke 5: 17-26)

Jesus Heals A Paralytic Man

Courage

Gives us the skills to face challenges, take risks and develop resilience and encourage personal growth.

(1 Samuel 17 1-58) – David and Goliath
(Daniel 6:1-28) – Daniel in the Lion’s Den

Kindness

Creates a positive, harmonious atmosphere, fosters empathy, friendship and a sense of belonging.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
(Luke 6: 27-31)

Perseverance

Teaches us the importance of determination and hard work. Helps us to overcome obstacles and achieve our goals.

The Journey of the Magi (Matthew 2: 1-12)

Respect

Helps us to treat others with kindness and listen and consider everyone's feelings. It is important we are all valued.

Show proper respect to everyone. (1 Peter: 2-17)

Christian Distinctiveness from St Bart's Academy Trust

St Bart's Academy Trust have a passion for releasing potential in all our children and staff through the encouragement and development of ambition, aspiration and excellence in all aspects of our work.

Our commitment is to place children at the centre of everything we do. Working in collaboration, we strive to provide the highest quality of educational experience and outcomes for our young people in an inclusive environment. Through the enjoyment of learning, we live life together in all its fullness through **PEACE**.

We believe this vision empowers children with the skills to make a positive impact on the future of the communities they serve.

For our Trust schools this means life in all its fullness is a life lived for God, serving others.

Our vision is in line with the Church of England's mission that our education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of '**life in all its fullness**' at its heart.

Our vision is for the common good of the whole community within each of our flourishing family of church schools through their own theologically rooted Christian vision they encompass the Trust vision.

St Bart's Academy Trust Church Schools decided that each school would record a worship to share with the other schools. We are very proud to record and produce our digital worships.

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, Principal, Staff, Pupils and the wider 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 and senior leaders also have responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.

The Federation Staff 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 Principal, 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 all 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**
- ✝ **Setting of the Worship table**
- ✝ **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 may be 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
- Harvest
- Leaver's Service

Parents are always invited to these services.

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

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

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.