



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been developed to reflect the ethos and aims of the school and in accordance with:

- The Christian (Anglican Communion) principles on which the school was founded;
- The Diocesan Policy on Worship;
- The school's commitment to ecumenism and the celebration of shared values and beliefs;
- With reference to appropriate issues as recommended by the Lincolnshire SACRE.

Vision

William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School's vision is to provide all members of the school community with the opportunities to engage with life in all its fullness through the highest quality of education, encouragement and endeavour. We are committed to striving for excellence and ensuring that all students are known, valued and can achieve.

Aims

The school will, through collective acts of worship, seek to engender:

- An admiration for the Christian values embracing the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of all members of the school community;
- A respect for the views and beliefs of others in a multicultural society;
- A feeling of wonder at the marvels of the natural world and human endeavour;
- An appreciation and understanding of the applications, outcomes and achievements of the inventions of science and technology;
- An affiliation and understanding of artistic flair and talent in all its many manifestations;
- A sense of personal and social responsibility;
- The school core values of Compassion, Responsibility, Friendship, Respect, Perseverance and Wisdom and our vision statement underpin our school.

Statutory Duty

"All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship" unless "the parent requests that she/he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school". (1988 Education Reform Act).

The school's Collective Worship is invitational, inclusive and reflective, ensuring that all members of the community are welcomed and respected regardless of faith background, belief or worldview.

Participation in worship does not require students to actively engage in prayer or make declarations of faith.

The Right to Withdraw from Collective Worship

In accordance with current legislation, parents/carers have the right to request that their child be wholly or partly withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship. The school recognises and respects this right and will act in accordance with the law in relation to all such requests.

Parents/carers wishing to withdraw their child from Collective Worship should make their request in writing to the Headteacher. On receiving a request, the student will be withdrawn from collective worship. We encourage parents to have a conversation with us about any alternative arrangements that might be made.

Students withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised by the school and provided with suitable alternative activities. The school will ensure that no student is disadvantaged or made to feel excluded as a result of their withdrawal.

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is a central expression of the school's Christian vision and values, contributing to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students. While the school encourages participation in Collective Worship as part of its distinctive Christian character, it remains committed to respecting the beliefs and convictions of all members of its community.

Requests for withdrawal will be reviewed periodically, and parents/carers may choose to discuss their decision with the school at any time. Where students are in the sixth form, they may exercise their own right to withdraw from Collective Worship in accordance with the law.

Implementation

1. There will be collective worship for each Year Group on a 7-day rotation in which a School Core Value will be introduced, covering a Christian theme and topical issue. Time will be provided for personal reflection on spiritual issues during which pupils will be encouraged to explore and develop their own religious, spiritual and / or philosophical convictions.
2. The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values but include a recognition of the church's liturgical year and make space for other national events.
3. Tutors will ask pupils to reflect on an issue during the registration period. There will be a 'quote for the week' based on the value of the term published in the school's daily bulletin and on our school website.
4. Celebration Collective Worships are held weekly to promote the positive ethos of the school through celebrating the achievements of the pupils.
5. The Chaplain organises and collates the Collective Worship rota. The Chaplain can provide Heads of Year and other members of staff with material to use in collective worship. The materials are also kept in the Shared Area on the school network and in the Lawres Chapel.
6. The school will seek to encourage the use of the Lawres Chapel for personal reflection and a place of calm. Voluntary school-based Christian groups meet regularly in the Chapel.
7. The Chaplain will co-ordinate services to take place in the Lawres Chapel.
8. The school's Christian Union (Fusion) will meet in the Lawes Chapel every Monday and Thursday lunchtime and have an act of worship. Whilst the students organise and run Fusion, the Chaplain has oversight.

The school will encourage all pupils and staff to be actively involved in the planning and presentation of the acts of worship and will use these as opportunities to promote self-respect, respect and a sense

of responsibility and community in its members. Collective acts of worship will be conducted in a way that will promote and support Christian values whilst respecting the integrity of pupils' own religious beliefs and non-religious beliefs and traditions.

Chaplaincy

1. The school has a Chaplain who leads sessions for students during lunch time and is available for staff and students on several occasions during the week. The Chaplain works under the Care and Guidance structure in the school. The Chaplain is a qualified Mental Health First Aider and is part of the team supporting the Wellbeing Champions. The Chaplain co-ordinates the Lawres Chapel, links with the local church and community, delivers collective worship and deals with other spiritual matters as the need arises under the direction of the Headteacher. Fusion (School Christian Union) led by a group of sixth formers meets weekly in the Lawres Chapel overseen by the School Chaplain.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Senior members of staff are present in each collective worship and monitor the implementation of the policy. "Thoughts for the week" is published in the bulletins by the Chaplain to correspond with the school value of the term and the theme of the Collective Worship. This is monitored through termly meetings with Form Representatives and through staff. Foundation governors regularly monitor collective worship and evaluate its impact on the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. They share their findings with the governing board.'