

# Whitwell Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

The Governing Board of Whitwell Primary School adopted  
this policy on **27.11.2025**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

### Record of Policy Reviews & Amendments

Date	Author	Any changes made?
09.07.2015	School	New policy
15.10.2020	School	None
13.11.2025	School	Revised and modernised aims

## Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## Aims of Collective Worship

The aims of the Collective Worship are to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Provide pupils with the opportunity to worship God. (For those who wish to.)
- Consider spiritual and moral issues. (For example, exploring awe and wonder in the world or ethical issues.)
- Explore their own beliefs. (For example, this may sometimes be an extension of learning from religion introduced in R.E. lessons where children have been responding to a particular theme for example Special Places or Creation.)
- Encourage participation and response. (For example, involving children in making a cake, reading prayers, responding to a story.)
- Develop community spirit.
- Provide a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Safeguard children by providing them with information ie how to stay safe online.

## Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Board. Collective worship at Whitwell Primary School is in accordance with the 1988 Education Act as clarified in Circular 1/94 *Religious Education and Collective Worship*, which requires that:

- All pupils take part in a daily act of worship (unless withdrawn by parents) on school premises.
- Most acts of worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" but remain non-denominational. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.
- Acts of worship should be appropriate to the ages and backgrounds of the children.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

Collective Worship is part of the school's contribution to promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in accordance with Section 1 of the Reform Act (1988).

## Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff. Staff also have the right, under the 1944 Education Act, not to attend Collective Worship.

## **Implementation**

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils

Assemblies are presented using a variety of methods to enhance the learning opportunities of all pupils. These include:

- The use of visual stimuli, i.e. pictures, role play and artefacts.
- The use of auditory stimuli, i.e. music, stories, discussion and poems.
- The use of quiet times, i.e. prayer and reflection.

All pupils are encouraged to take an active part in collective worship, learning about and reflecting upon the key ideas presented.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Children of all ages, abilities and gender benefit from collective worship. Children with special educational needs are fully integrated, with teaching assistant support if appropriate. Staff are aware of the opportunity collective worship presents for consideration of ethnicity and multicultural issues. All pupils are encouraged to be active participants during Collective Worship.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy every five years to assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.