



# Witheridge C of E Primary Academy

## Collective Worship Policy

Last Updated: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the teacher co-ordinating Collective Worship, with assistance from the Head Teacher, governors and the local church.

### What is Worship?

“It is the essence of worship that is about giving attention to the divine” (SACRE 1989)

Church of England schools are required to hold a daily act of collective worship which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

All acts of collective worship (e.g. prayer) are invitational and inclusive for all children regardless of faith or non-faith and will be introduced as such by the adult leading collective worship.

## **The right of withdrawal**

All parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean in any way children will be in anyway exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- Enable all children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- Lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with God.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of faith.
- Use celebration, silence, reflection, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Encourage all present to explore their own personal beliefs.
- Raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practise school values.
- Celebrate each individual member of the school community.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality (e.g. the local church) and foster the sense of being part of the wider community.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

## **We aim to provide opportunities for children and adults to:**

- Worship God (should they wish to)
- Celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive.
- Have experiences which are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children.
- Have time for silent reflection and exploration of inner peace.
- Experience a range of worship, including singing, music reflection
- Experience collective worship that takes place in an environment that is conducive to worship.

**We always invite, never coerce, remembering that children and adults will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.**

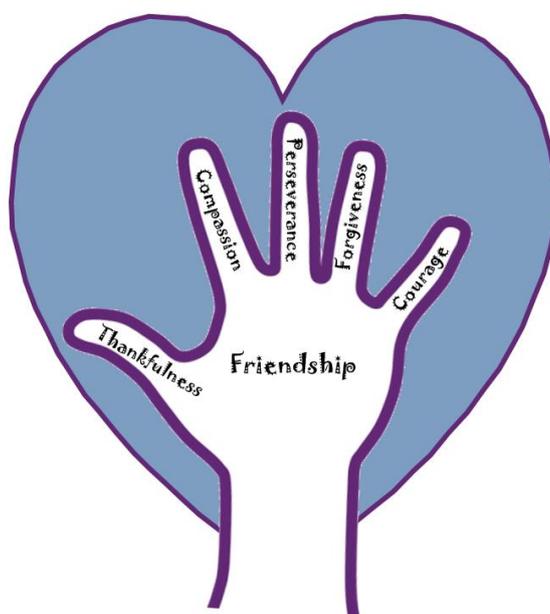
## Values

Each half term, collective worship will be centred around one of our school values or our school vision. Our school values were chosen by children, governors, staff and parents in collaboration.

***'Encourage One Another and Build Each Other Up'*** (1 Thessalonians 5: 11)

**At Witheridge School, we aspire to encourage one another and build each other up to be the best that we can be: the best learners, the best friends, the best people, in school and in the wider community, now and in the future.**

**To help us achieve this aspiration we have six school Christian values.**



## Organisation

Collective worship is an important part of school life and it is expected that all children will normally attend. Collective Worship themes are based around Bible stories linked to the half termly value, songs linked to the half termly value and topical events which link to our school vision and values.

- All teachers are timetabled to take a collective worship at least every other week. (Excluding NQTs)
- Where appropriate, collective worship will include the open and close, a time for reflection and prayer.
- Minimum of one collective worship per week is focused on singing.
- Half termly collective worship in house groups.
- Half termly collective worship timetable to be given to all teaching staff and Roots and Fruits materials provided.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out by Head of School, Chair of Governors and Collective Worship Lead.

Feedback will be given to staff and ethos committee.

### **Inclusion and equal opportunities**

A daily act of worship is held for all children regardless of their background or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents. All acts of collective worship are introduced as invitational by all adults leading collective worship.