Collective Worship Policy

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Governing Body Committee responsible for review:	**Children & Learning**
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1. Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents. The Executive Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. The practical coordination of this may be delegated to a member of staff. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the Executive Headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

2. 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 aims to give all pupils the opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Westfields Infant School, we acknowledge and understand that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Achievement assemblies, curriculum assemblies and singing assemblies are made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity to reflect or pray at the end of these times.

3. Aims

Collective worship at Westfields Infant School aims to develop children's:

- Develop a community spirit and spiritual awareness;
- Explore concepts, ideas, social and moral values together;
- Build knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and pattern of worship;
- Develop awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship;
- Celebrate achievements.

Collective worship at Westfields Infant School aims to provide time and opportunities:

- for reflection and reverence;
- to encourage the growth of a sharing and caring school community amongst all staff and pupils;
- to provide opportunities for celebration and reflection on the important aspects of life;
- to provide a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements;
- to encourage children to be a part of large and small gatherings as well as to provide opportunities to perform and respond to presentation; and
- to provide opportunities to understand the worship of God.

4. Organisation and implementation of collective worship

The majority of acts of collective worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity with the majority of themes appropriate to all pupils regardless of their background.

A collective act of worship provide opportunities to:

- Focus on a particular issue by providing a stimulus.
- Encourage reflection on the theme.
- Respond in a variety of ways such as:

✓ prayers
✓ singing
✓ movement
✓ experiencing stillness/thinking time/prayers
✓ develop a sense of reverence

Whether in assembly or class time, collective worship will:

- foster attitudes and values which we believe are of central importance to our school ethos;
- be a time of calmness with children expected to arrive and leave silently and music with music played on arrival and departure;
- be centred around one-off events e.g. charity days, school and national events with room for flexibility in place in order to cater for unexpected events; and

- avoid containing administrative and disciplinary matters.

At Westfields Infant School, we follow a weekly timetable:

Monday	Whole school singing assembly (music linking to seasonal events)
Tuesday	In class assembly focusing on Westfields Infant School Learning Behaviours, incorporating reflection time throughout
Wednesday	Whole school assembly covering a range of themes, incorporating a reflection time/prayer at the end
Thursday	In class assembly providing opportunities for circle time as key aspects of the PSHE curriculum are explored, incorporating reflection time throughout
Friday	Whole school celebration assembly where achievements are recognised and shared

We also take part in collective worship which involves the wider community including:
- Harvest
- Remembrance
- Christmas
- Easter

5. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship
Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child (fully or partly) from collective worship under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. They should do this in writing and following the request, the Executive Headteacher will discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child. During times of collective worship, the child withdrawn should still be supervised but the school does not have to provide alternative teaching.

6. Resources
A range of books containing stories and themes suitable for collective worship are kept in the Meeting Room.

7. Governors
Governors will ensure that they and the school promote tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths (or those of no faith), cultures and lifestyles; and support and help, through their words, actions and influence within the school and more widely in the community, to prepare children and young people positively for life in modern Britain. Governors attend acts of Collective Worship as part of their monitoring responsibilities and involvement in school life.