



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

*Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve
to be the very best that we can be...*



Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love



Policy for Collective Worship



Review date: Summer Term 2025

Rationale

Collective Worship at The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Aided Schools takes place daily. We promote an appreciation of the Christian way of life and of religious beliefs. Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of their personal and moral values, how to respect one another and how to care for and show our appreciation for the wonderful world that we live in. Collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for us all to gather together, engage with one another and have some time for stillness and reflection.

Within our schools, we recognise that we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith. We think carefully together to ensure these children are included in this time together.

Aims

All pupils, including those who do not come from Christian families, should be able to join the daily act of Collective Worship, even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.



Collective Worship aims to provide children with the opportunity to:

- Affirm our Christian values, reflecting on God's Character and the teachings of Christ
- To develop an appreciation of the created world and our responsibilities for it (encouraging awe and wonder)
- A time to share each others joy (e.g. personal awards or experiences, reflecting both in and out of school)
- Celebrate the special times in the Christian Calendar
- Consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues - exploring their own beliefs and developing their own spirituality, enabling them to flourish
- Participate and respond in time together as a whole school community
- Support children to develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others; promoting respect, tolerance and understanding of those with different beliefs and backgrounds

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must take place on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

Withdrawal of pupils from Collective Worship

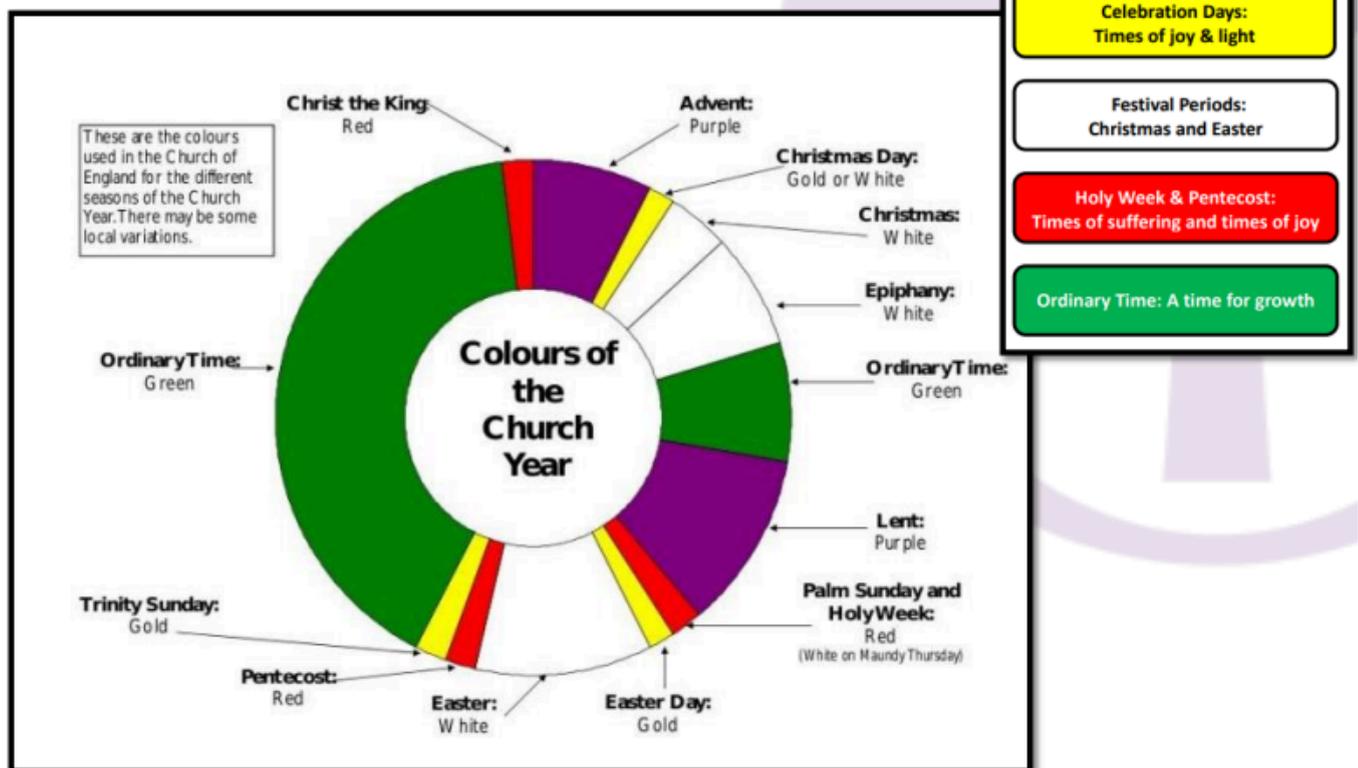
In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Act of Collective Worship. They should let their wishes known to the Headteacher, in writing who will then ensure that any children withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the collective act of worship takes place.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a special time shared as a whole school. There is music for the children 'as a call,' to walk into Collective Worship and as the music ends, there is a candle rota led by the RE Ambassadors and children light the candles to signify the beginning of the Collective Worship, with shared words. The teachers lead Collective Worship using the Gather, Engage, Respond and Send template. Our aim is to ensure it is Inclusive; through meaningful contributions from all, Invitational; opportunities to engage and Inspiring; enabling time for big questions to be asked, motivating us to think differently and have the opportunity to reflect on the wider community.

Planning of Collective Worship

The seasons of the church year should **enrich** your worship and can help to plan your year.



Collective worship themes are planned based around the events within the Christian year, including 'Our Schools Christian Core Values.' There is flexibility within the year that allows us to respond to any national or international incidents or local events which may affect members of our school and wider community. These are considered sensitively and by the staff team to decide upon an appropriate response.

Special events and celebrations are held in the schools' linked churches at Longhorsley St Helen's and at Whalton St Mary's Magdalene. Events are led by both the Church Clergy of Reverend Elaine and her team and our school staff team. These include: Harvest, Remembrance (by the Flagpole in the Village at Longhorsley and in the Church at Whalton), Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Leavers Services at the end of Year 4 or Year 6.

Other information

- Collective Worship takes place daily at 10.20 – 10.40 am (at Longhorsley) and 10.00-10.20am (at Whalton), with the exception of Tuesdays when Collective Worship for Whalton takes place at the end of the day at 3:00pm
- All teachers are responsible for leading Collective Worship, they do this on a weekly basis. We begin the year by focusing on our School's Christian Core Values and the special events of Harvest, Remembrance and Advent. Then we consider Epiphany, Miracles of Jesus, Lent and the importance of prayer, giving to others (including our own school chosen charities), Easter and Pentecost; including faithfulness, integrity, fellowship and generosity. We conclude the academic year with themes around; resilience, aspiration, determination, tolerance, respect and team spirit
- We also invite visitors to lead some of our worship. For example: Reverend Elaine and her team, and Kirstine from the Mustard Tree Trust
- Children evaluate the Collective Worship regularly (with the help of the RE Ambassadors) and any questions they raise are discussed
- Staff have their Collective Worship observed termly by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, a Governor or a member of the Church Clergy, to ensure consistency

- **The FEDERATION of LONGHORSLEY St HELEN'S and WHALTON C of E SCHOOLS**

Written and agreed by staff, this Policy was formulated after considering the following:

1. aims and content;
2. teaching strategies;
3. dissemination and consultation process.

To be reviewed by staff, considered by governors and approved at the termly Governors Meeting Autumn 2024