

# Warton Nethersole's C. of E. Primary School



## Policy Statement on Collective Worship

Warton Nethersole's C.E. Primary School is a voluntary controlled Church of England Primary School where Christianity is fundamental to every aspect of school life. We aim to promote the spiritual and moral development of children, and lay the foundations for them to grow in the Christian faith.

A secure and loving environment provides children with knowledge and skills as well as the ability to use both now and in later life. As a voluntary controlled school, our worship is in accordance with the beliefs of the Church of England. Worship is daily and reflects our Christian foundation. We plan worship to give children an experience which is uplifting and which brings together children from different traditions.

### **Worship and Education**

The 1998 Education Reform Act pointed to the importance of the spiritual in children's development. Worship is central to the spiritual experience and it is a valid task of the school to educate children about worship. Education in worship should be exploratory and well as affirming the beliefs that children hold and helping them to understand the Christian faith.

### **Worship in School**

In accordance with our Foundation, we support and encourage the teachings and practice of the Christian faith. Children are given the opportunity to experience a variety of Christian worship.

We recognise that there is a need to build close relationships between the school and the local church and we value the participation of Rev. Banks who leads and takes part in our worship on a regular basis. We include termly visits to Church, and welcome the 'Messy Church' and 'Soul Café' groups into school to lead our assemblies based around our biblical themes.

In planning worship, we take account of the needs of the children, their ages and development. We ensure that worship is given a high priority and is planned to take account of the Church's year.

**Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish, and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. Please speak to the HeadTeacher in the first instance if you have any concerns about worship in school.**

## **Pattern of worship**

Collective Worship takes place between 9.05- 9-20am. Occasionally worship is held at the end of the school day from 2.45- 3.10pm. Parents and members of the local community regularly join us. Longer worship times take place at the end of the term and to mark special occasions.

Class Worship is sometimes conducted in classrooms for a smaller more intimate worship time.

Each member of staff takes part in leading assembly one or two times a week as well as their own class worship time. The Head Teacher leads worship on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning when in school.

Each of the classes leads worship at least once a term, and our worship leaders regularly contribute to assemblies for example by performing short pieces of drama, writing and reading prayers and bible passages. They meet with worship leaders from other schools to share ideas and learn from each other.

Our Friday assembly includes celebrations of achievement, with the distribution of certificates for learning and for good behavior, including things like good manners, caring, hard work and good attitudes, and demonstration of Christian Values.

Special collective worship times are held for the festivals of the Church year as well as Mothering Sunday services, and the Year 6 Leaver's Service. We often invite the Over 60s from the village to join us for example at our Harvest service when the children distribute gifts to the community.

## **Monitoring Worship**

A record of themes of worship, hymns and songs used, is kept in a file in the hall which worship leaders keep up to date.

## Music

We have a collection of CDs with a variety of hymns and songs. These include songs from the BBC Come and Worship and Kevin Mayhew CDs. Occasionally the worship is lead by the Church music group.

Summary:

In this school we aim to:

- Draw examples from Christian liturgical worship
- Incorporate examples of Christian worship appropriate to the children's ages and understanding
- Provide opportunities for all children to take part in good worship
- Be properly prepared with teachers encouraged to follow up worship when appropriate
- Help children to understand why people worship

