



**Warwick Bridge School
Collective Worship Policy**

Philosophy

Warwick Bridge School is a Community school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Warwick Bridge School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Warwick Bridge School that worship should: -

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Head Teacher who after consultation with the governing body has appointed Mr Ashton with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Warwick Bridge School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Head Teacher and governors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Warwick Bridge School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head Teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Warwick Bridge School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to non-religious assemblies.

Organisation e.g.

Day	Person Leading	Main Hall
Monday	Head Teacher/SLT	Whole School
Tuesday	Head Teacher/SLT	Whole School
Wednesday	Choir Assembly	Whole School
Thursday	Singing Assembly	Classrooms
Friday	WOW Assembly	Whole School

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective Worship based on SEAL/Values for Life etc. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

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We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the schools council.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the cupboard next to the Head Teacher's Office. The school has a budget available to develop these resources.

Policy written and adopted by Warwick Bridge staff **July 2023**

Ratified by Governing Body

Date to be reviewed **July 2026**

Signed:.....
Head Teacher

Signed:.....
Chair of Governors

Date:.....