



Sledmere and Wetwang Federation

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY – January 2026

Adopted by Sledmere and Wetwang Federation Policy Review Group

Signed: Andrew McCormack

Position: Chair of Governors

To be reviewed by Governors January 2027

At Sledmere and Wetwang Federation, the daily act of Collective Worship takes place, not only in accordance with current legislative requirements, but as an integral part of school life. Through this and in the school vision of the we seek to promote:

‘Learning and growing in the love of God’ (John 4:16)

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish.

All staff and governors are welcome to attend daily Collective Worship.

We follow the Church of England liturgical calendar, identifying core themes and values within the liturgy of the Word. These themes are introduced at the beginning of each half-term by a teacher during a whole school worship, including an exploration of the relevant bible text. A variety of styles are used including question and answer sessions, visual displays and dramatic portrayal by the children.

The half-termly value is displayed in the hall, together with a linked photograph of children living out the value, so that pupils are reminded of it regularly. Class-based Collective Worship then follows this theme in a quieter, more reflective environment.

A Celebration Assembly at the end of each month invites parents and carers to join us in celebrating the children’s achievements. These can be inside or outside of school, sporting, academic, personal, or simply someone who has demonstrated some of the Christian values which are promoted throughout the school.

This is the usual pattern of worship each week:

Monday – Whole school

Tuesday – Open the Book – Bible based story led by staff

Wednesday – Class-based worship

Thursday – Revd. Jacki, Mr Adams or Mrs Chambers

Friday – Singing worship

Each class says grace daily at the beginning of the lunch break, led by one of the children.

Aims for Collective Worship

The school endeavours to promote, through an understanding of spiritual, moral, cultural and social development:

- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship with other people, including the larger Christian community;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others which demonstrate tolerance, support and understanding;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self-sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;
- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love;
- Develop, teach and embed Fundamental British Values.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Christian value and content of Collective Worship is recorded and shared with all staff and visitors who will be partaking in Collective Worship during that half-term.

We work closely with the local Area Dean and our Diocesan Advisor to review our practice. With their help, we look for ways to develop our Worship and these ideas are reviewed and carried through.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of Collective Worship will include:

- Day to day observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest by staff and the Headteacher;
- Specific monitoring of Collective Worship by the Headteacher, Worship Team, Vicar, Governor committee members, staff and the Diocesan Advisor;
- Discussions with children;
- Link visits by Governors (any governor visiting to look at their subject is encouraged to stay for Worship and view this as part of their visit.)

Criteria of Collective Worship

The themes link to our Christian values and are presented in a variety of ways and through a variety of media. They are meaningful and of value. They recognise the stage of readiness for worship of each child. They are educationally acceptable in content and suitable for the children present.

Content and Approach

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical material from local and national news;
- Literature with implicit and/or explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements, work of ourselves and others;
- Prayers in different forms – formal, children's own, silence and meditation.

Format of Collective Worship

We use an Anglican format for Collective Worship. This involves Gathering – Engaging – Responding – Sending

Children may enter and leave the hall to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and attentively. A candle is lit to indicate the start of the Collective Worship. There is often a hymn and we always share a prayer.

At important times in the church calendar, such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost the school has special celebrations to which parents and members of the wider community are invited. These may take place either at the school or at St Mary's (Sledmere) or St Nicholas' Church (Wetwang.)

To complement our collective worship work, each classroom has a reflection space. The reflection space is usually linked to the themes of collective worship and allows the children to explore the themes and reflect. We have also developed reflection spaces in our outdoor areas to enable pupils to think more widely about the world and their place in it.

