

Collective Worship Policy

2016-19

Policy Updated: September 2016
Future Review: September 2019



Nurture ~ Believe ~ Discover ~ Achieve

OUR CHRISTIAN VISION

Our vision for Woodstock CE Primary School reflects a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners. Guided by our Christian values, it is driven by our desire to offer the best possible education for our pupils in partnership with parents, the Church and the local community.

Woodstock CE Primary School will be a centre for learning where adults and children:

Nurture and prioritise wellbeing and development.

Believe in themselves and in each other.

Discover their own strengths and become successful lifelong learners.

Achieve more than they ever thought possible.

OUR CHRISTIAN ETHOS

Recognising our historic foundation, we will preserve and develop our religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level.

Woodstock CE Primary School strives to be an inclusive community where children grow, learn and achieve together. Within a nurturing, supportive and safe environment, mental health and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do and recognised as the responsibility of all. Children's natural curiosity is fostered through a creative curriculum that excites and challenges and enables them to be successful learners. Supported by a culture of equality and aspiration we aim to remove disadvantage so that every child can thrive.

We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils.

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29, v11

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Introduction

We believe that Collective Worship should be inclusive and build understanding, respect and empathy in young people. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths or those without a faith, are welcome. Our school celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that Collective Worship is an educational entitlement to all. In Collective Worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. Opportunities for children to learn, reflect and to offer thanksgiving and praise to God are provided through acts of Collective Worship.

Our Core Values

At Woodstock CE Primary School our core values are:-

FRIENDSHIP

We value friendship as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of ourselves and others, and the good of the community.

'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

RESPECT

Develop self-respect, and respect for others. Promote inclusion, and appreciate and value the diversity of people's circumstances and backgrounds.

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

RESPONSIBILITY

Take responsibility for the way we lead our lives; how we use our talents, rights and opportunities.

'Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.' Romans 12:6-8

PERSEVERANCE

Maintain a 'can do' attitude and aspire to achieve goals.

'I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me.' Philippians 3:13-14

KINDNESS

Show care and concern, and exercise goodwill toward others.

'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.' Ephesians 4:32

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (para 50)

Worship at Woodstock CE Primary School

In our school we want to be able to offer our children the best experience of collective worship we can. We value daily opportunities to come together to:

- Celebrate and appreciate
- Contemplate and wonder
- Inspire and enthuse
- Enjoy
- Nurture and nourish
- Be thankful and pray

Above all collective worship should involve and empower the children – they are the best resources we have.

Aims

- To celebrate the Christian faith, as taught by the Church of England, and to learn about and be sensitive to other faiths.
- To establish, affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of our school.
- To support the children's spiritual, personal, moral and social development through giving opportunities for prayer and reflection.
- To support pupils to make links with Christian values in other curriculum areas.
- To enable children to ask penetrating questions and be comfortable with open ended answers
- To support the Every Child Matters outcomes:-be healthy, be safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well-being.
- To provide a quiet area for spiritual reflection/enquiry within the school

Collective Worship and the School Curriculum

Collective Worship contributes to the school curriculum by:-

- Supporting the values of the curriculum including promoting British Values
- Provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve
- Promoting pupils' Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural development
- Preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- Promoting key skills such as communication, ICT, problem solving, creativity and culture

We believe that our Christian ethos permeates throughout our taught curriculum and is further enhanced through RE and PSHE & Citizenship.

Planning

Weekly themes linked to Christian values are planned on a termly basis for collective worship and planning is displayed in the staff room.

Content

Acts of worship will include some of the following:

- Faith and its importance to individuals, families, communities and cultures
- Exploration of our understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression
- Provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity
- Teachings of the Bible and the Christian year
- Lives of famous people and how their faith and sense of identity enabled them to achieve in society and the global community, this may be explored through stories, music, art and poetry
- Exploration of books and symbols sacred to Christian and other world faiths
- Important local and national events that impact on our lives

- A time for valuing children's own achievements
- Hymns/Prayers
- Celebrations/Festivals
- Pupils will also be introduced to, and helped to understand, more difficult concepts such as pain, death, loss, separation, peer pressure, self-worth etc.,.

Organisation

Acts of collective worship are generally led by members of staff with pupils' involvement being encouraged. Once a week, a representative from one of our local Churches leads collective worship for the school in an assembly of the whole school. A member of the clergy works termly with an upper KS2 class to support pupils in planning and delivering a child-led collective worship. On occasions outside speakers are invited to take part in collective worship, for example charity workers, Fair Trade representatives, local dignitaries.

Worship takes place as a whole school in the hall and sometimes outdoors. At other times worship can be in Key Stage groups, or as individual classes in classrooms. Acts of Collective Worship follow an agreed format:

Entrance:	Children come into the hall to thought provoking and awe-inspiring images on the screen and music playing.
Welcome:	Greeting and lighting of the candle
Sung Worship:	Christian song/hymn is selected to link with the theme of Worship
Christian Message:	<p>The Bible is a central part of Christian teaching, worship, and liturgy. It can be used to aid worship, to learn from and as a reference point for the theme of worship. Bible references should be used as an integral part of the structure (liturgy) of collective worship. Liturgy is the form which holds worship together and is usually based on the Bible and church tradition.</p> <p>Links could be made to current/world affairs. Real life stories and experiences may be used along with other stimuli that promote deeper thinking about the priority we place on <i>who</i> God is in our lives and <i>where</i> God is on our list of priorities.</p>
Response:	Response is a general term for the way in which we express our concern, appreciation or understanding. The response can be seen as the focal point of worship. One of the most common responses is prayer. (Confession, Psalms, Collects, Intercessions, Offertory, the Peace)
Sending:	As we close the worship we make a tie into the daily life of the school and how the implications of worship are worked out in our lives. We conclude the act of Collective Worship with The Lord's Prayer or Our School Prayer.

Resources

We have a range of resources which include:

- Hymns and songs
- Bible stories, pictures, poems, and books
- Music CDs
- Artefacts
- Collection of books for assemblies
- Interactive Whiteboard and Projectors
- Piano

Evaluation of Impact

Through:

- Pupil voice
- Parent, staff, governor & visitor feedback
- Photographs
- Reflections

Evidenced in a Yearly Big Book including feedback on impact of Worship, and Pupils' Reflect & Express Books.

Collective Worship and the Law

Arrangements for collective worship in a church school are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the head teacher. Foundation Governors have responsibility for seeing, so far as is practicable, that the ethos of the school is reflected in worship. The act of worship is not included in curriculum time and must be distinctive to meet legal requirements.

There are legal requirements for Collective Worship, which include:

Collective worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the trust deed or Diocesan guidelines. These include the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, in a church school, it should be clearly Christian.

The school must provide an act of collective worship for all children every day. Daily Collective Worship must be provided for all registered school pupils on a daily basis, (unless they have been withdrawn by parental request). Therefore, this applies from Reception. It also means that it is illegal to withdraw any pupils from Collective Worship on any other grounds (for example support groups, music lessons, booster classes, etc).

The act of collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.

Right of Withdrawal

As is stated in our School Prospectus parents may withdraw their children from collective worship on religious grounds. (The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified or explained by the parents). This does not mean that we can guarantee an exemption from the Christian ethos of the school. Should children be withdrawn, we will provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety.

Worship is an important part of the ethos of the school which teachers must be willing and able to uphold. It is expected that all teachers will attend daily Collective Worship with their pupils. This is one way for the school to show that worship is central to its life and is important for everyone, not just children. It also makes sense educationally for teachers to know what their pupils are experiencing in Collective Worship. Therefore, teachers should not have time out of worship on a regular basis but only in exceptional circumstances. Collective worship should not be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. It is acknowledged that teachers have the right to withdraw from worship on grounds of conscience.

Policy Review

This Policy was reviewed and revised by the Church School Group made up of staff, governors and parents during the Autumn Term 2016.

Review Date: Autumn 2019

