



Policy for:

Collective Worship

		Date	Change Log	
Reviewed by:	Ellie Green	Nov 2024	No Changes	
Authorised by:	C&P	Spring 2025		
Date for next review: (or earlier should legislation require it)	Autumn 2025			



Our Christian Vision & Values

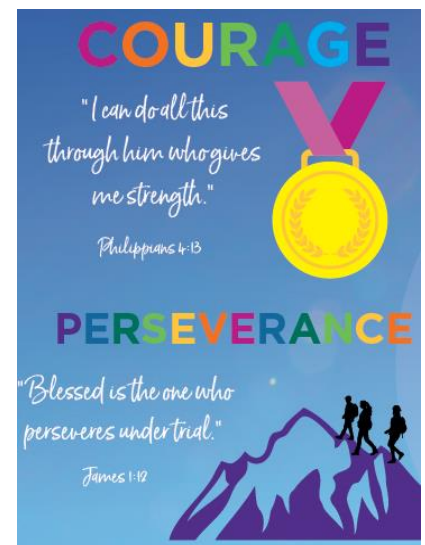
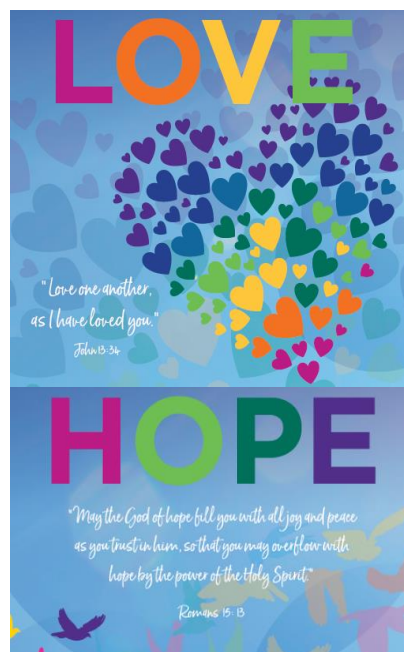


Our Christian vision states that we:

Clear a path for a lifelong journey of exploration and growth, through an innovative and challenging curriculum, inspiring all in our community to be courageous advocates and global citizens. Everyone can find their light and shine it brightly. Hand in hand, we love, learn and flourish together.

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' 'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Our core Christian values allow us to deliver the Christian vision:





Collective Worship

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Woodstock CE Primary School; worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Our Christian Vision

Clear a path for a lifelong journey of exploration and growth, through an innovative and challenging curriculum, inspiring all in our community to be courageous advocates and global citizens. Everyone can find their light and shine it brightly. Walking hand in hand, we love, learn and flourish together.

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Our Values

These are our Christian values, the tools that allow us to deliver the Christian vision:

Value	Bible Reference
Love	"Love one another, as I have loved you." John 13:34
Hope	"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13
Courage	"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philipians 4:13
Respect	"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." Matthew 7:12
Honesty	"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18
Perseverance	"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial." James 1:12

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate –
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centered on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions worship takes place in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Each week the pattern of worship in school is:

Monday – Class/Phase Collective worship introducing the theme of the week.

Tuesday – Whole School Singing worship

Wednesday – Class/Phase worship

Thursday – Whole School, Church Led, Collective Worship

Friday – Whole School Celebration Worship

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are also given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. The content of Collective Worship is varied. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. At Woodstock CE Primary we use Picture News as a stimulus for weekly themes. This resource not only links to the work we do as a Right's Respecting School and British Values, but also helps worship themes to reflect and support the wider curriculum and extend the children's understanding of the world around them. The themes of worship help express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. We will also introduce pupils to a range of approaches to worship.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation, and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Children across school are also able to access the Prayer Space in groups. Groups work with our Chaplain Matt Bodinham who supports our school once a week for ½ a day.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher.

For guidance on the breadth of our Religious Education teaching please read our RE Curriculum overviews.

Our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy outlines how these aspects of our school culture are threaded through our curriculum.