



**CARE HOPE ASPIRE RESPECT INQUIRE SHARE**

GROWING SUCCESS, ROOTED IN FAITH

# **St Wilfrid's Collective Worship Policy**

## ST WILFRID'S CE SCHOOL

### POLICY FOR WORSHIP

Church of England schools are communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. At St Wilfrid's, we believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all.

#### **Our Vision:**

'All pupils will grow in our school values, supported by staff, governors and the wider community.

Rooted in God's love we will deliver a broad education of the highest quality, enabling all pupils to succeed.'

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" 2 Peter 3:18*

*"Rooted and established in love" Ephesians 3:17*

In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship usually takes place in the morning, but it can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature
3. Collective worship is Educational as set out in the Educational Act 1996

#### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural**

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

#### **Inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths and beliefs. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;

- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

## **Educational**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the vision and value of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

## **Aims for Collective Worship: Developing Christian beliefs through Collective Worship**

The Collective Worship supports the aims of a church school as described by the late Lord Runcie when he was Archbishop of Canterbury

Collective Worship should be to:

- Nourish those of the Christian faith
- Encourage those of other faiths
- Challenge those who have no faith
- God as creator  
To develop a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the environment, the world and its people
- Jesus  
To learn more about the life and teachings of Christ and His unique character as 'God made man'
- The Holy Spirit  
To learn about individuals and organisations who have acknowledged the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- The Bible  
Through listening to stories from the Bible, learn more about the Christian way of life, how God can work through people and how their behaviour towards others can demonstrate his love.
- Prayer  
To know that prayer is to communicate with God, both to speak and to listen.

## **Structure of Worship**

- An act of worship will take place daily, lasting approximately 15 minutes in KS1 and 20 minutes in KS2. Worship may involve the whole school, key stages or year groups and may take place in school or in a local church. The format of the worship is shown below.
  - Suitable music will be played as the children enter and leave the hall accompanied by staff members

- A candle is lit
  - A song of praise will be sung during the Worship ceremony
  - Reflective music may be played during worship
  - The worship will include prayers, a talk/drama and possibly a reading from the Bible
  - The worship will include elements from our set liturgy
- Worship will be led by clergy, staff and invited visitors (see weekly format below). All Teachers will attend Monday and Friday assemblies and for the others a combination of teachers and TAs will provide the support to visitors.
  - Worship will link to the half termly value and Monday worship will be linked directly to the theme. The half termly themes are as follows –  
Autumn 1 – Care; Autumn 2 – Hope; Spring 1 – Aspire; Spring 2 – Respect; Summer 1 – Inquire; Summer 2 – Share.
  - The Worship rota will contain suggested activities and songs that may be used by teaching staff. Staff will briefly note their worship plan in the Worship folder. Other worship ideas can be found in the RE resources book in the Teacher Room.
  - Worship will also reflect the major festivals in the Church calendar, other Christian events such as One World Week, world religion festivals and secular events.
  - Staff will bring children to and collect them from Worship promptly, ensuring that children behave in an orderly and quiet manner.
  - Year groups will take responsibility for special services throughout the year:
    - Year 3 – Easter service in church
    - Year 4 – Christmas Service in church
    - Year 5 – Harvest service in school
  - Other services will be organised by the Headteacher and Clergy e.g. end of term services, thank you assembly, Education Sunday.
  - The training of new staff in leading worship will be given by the Key Stage leader. There will be occasional staff meetings on leading worship.
  - Reception children will not attend worship during the first half term of the Autumn term. After that, they will attend KS1 worship.
  - Class worship will be held occasionally if Key Stage worship cannot take place for example. These may be arranged flexibly – for example at a different time to collective worship – and may give children the opportunity to participate more fully in the worship activities.

An example of a week is below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Infants	Values	Parish Team (Clergy)	Celebration Worship	Church Team	Songs of Praise
Juniors	Values	Parish Team (Clergy)	Songs of Praise	Church team	Celebration Worship

### **The following matters are dealt with at an operational level in school:**

Personnel responsible for worship;

- Personnel involved in leading worship, including learners;
- Timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils;
- Planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values;
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Taking account of SIAMS requirements as applicable to the specific situation;
- Opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day;

This list is not exhaustive and other aspects may be included at the discretion of the school.

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

***Acts of worship often include traditional and ritual aspects, these are a means of enabling worship and include:***

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

### **Community Links**

- Year 6 children will attend a termly Eucharist following preparation by a member of the clergy
- A weekly Prayer meeting for parents will be held on Tuesday 9.00 – 9.10 am
- Governors will be encouraged to attend worship services when they are in school

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship**

Worship will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Termly HT reports, including Collective Worship, reviewed by the Spirituality committee.
- Observing worship by members of the Spirituality Committee
- Children invited to feedback after Worship
- Collecting feedback from groups of children on specific acts of worship such as Dream Team, Year 6 and others
- Using records of worship in specific folders

### **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 we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

#### Document History:

Worship Policy	
Policy Type:	School
Policy Source:	
Approval By:	Spirituality Committee
Review period:	Three years

Date Reviewed	Amendments Made	Date Approved	Approved By	Next Review Due
Feb 2019	Following new SIAMS framework	26/6/19	Spirituality Committee	Feb 2022