



# Wootton St. Peter's C of E VA Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

## Our Vision and Ethos

Our vision for Wootton St Peter's CE Primary School reflects a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners. 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, within the context of Christian belief and practice, and understanding of shared values. As a school we celebrate the diversity of the wider community and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equality of opportunity.

### Our School will be a centre:

- For learning where high standards are pursued with consistency and enthusiasm
- Where individuals are valued and helped to achieve their personal best.
- Where effective partnerships secure the success of the school.

Pupils and staff have the opportunity to come together daily to worship; and celebrate achievements. Clergy, parents and members of the wider school community are frequently welcomed on these occasions.

## Our Core Values

At Wootton St Peter's CE Primary School our core values are:-

### **COMPASSION.**

To value and treasure everyone as unique individuals, treating each other as we would want to be treated and showing compassion for all in our community.

***"Lord," Peter said, "you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him "Feed my lambs." John 21: 17***

### **GENEROSITY.**

To encourage all in our community to show generosity towards others by giving freely of their time and talents. We aim to help all to feel part of a global community too, where everyone works for the good of everyone else.

*Peter said, "I have no silver or gold; but what I have I give to you." Acts 3:6*

### **PERSEVERANCE.**

To develop perseverance in our school community to overcome obstacles we may encounter and become resilient along the way. It is okay to make mistakes and that we can all learn from them.

***"Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon Peter answered "Master we worked hard all night and caught nothing but I will do as you say and let down the nets." Luke 5:4-5***

*'Unlocking hearts and minds to a love of learning and a love for one another'.*

## 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 Wootton St Peter's 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

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- 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.

Worship takes place as a whole school in the hall. At other times worship is in classrooms either led by the teachers for the infants or at KS2 the children. Acts of Collective Worship follow an agreed format:

**Entrance:** Children come into the hall to thought provoking 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:** 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.

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 *who* God is in our lives and *where* God is on our list of priorities.

**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.

**Sending:** As we close the worship by extinguishing the candles we recite a phrase which includes 'The light of Christ will be with us wherever we are today'.

## 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

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## Evaluation of Impact

Through:

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

## 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 particular 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 staff and governors during the Autumn Term 2017.

**Review Date: Autumn 2020**

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