



Willow Park
C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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Approval by:	SLT
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Version Control

Version	Date	Summary of changes (inc. reason for review if not scheduled review date)

School Vision

The vision which we have for the school underpins everything we do including how we plan for and deliver Collective Worship. The ultimate worth of each person in our school is at the centre of all we do. We value the 'light' of every individual and we seek to nurture that light and encourage each of us to be the light to others

Our vision motto, 'Be the Light' is underpinned by the verse found in Matthew 5:14: "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."

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.

Aims

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.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and the festivals of the Christian and other faiths calendar
 - 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 centred 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 and
- 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 and
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings: Four whole school acts of worship a week take place in the hall and one act of worship a week will be held in classrooms. This provides an opportunity for children to reflect upon the whole school worship in a smaller and more intimate setting. Children are invited to reflect, pray and explore important issues and questions. On occasions worship takes place in our link church, 'St Stephens.' We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. 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.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. 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. The themes of worship are based on a termly value taken from a three year rolling programme, largely based on, 'Values for Life' and 'Roots and Fruits.' A lot of thought goes into exploring how our vision of, 'be the light' 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 different 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. 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.

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 head teacher.

Links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- RE
- Spirituality and PSHE