

St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy



Collective Worship Policy

June 2017



Our Christian Values

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary Academy, we have eight Christian Values, underpinned by love at the heart of everything we do.

Our Christian Values are:

Fair, Kind, Joy, Courage, Forgive, Hope, Peace and Trust
Love

At St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy Collective Worship conforms with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement, to the aims and ethos of our school, and therefore, to the Christian education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Love is at the heart of all our Learning, Teaching and Worship at St Wilfrid's, and the Christian Values we have chosen surround us in the teaching of the Bible. These values are used as part of the Worship in school.

The Place of Collective Worship at St. Wilfrid's CE Primary Academy

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Anglican tradition, with Governors and Staff seeing it as an essential part of all pupils' education.

We see worship as the stimulus for the whole life of the school. By the values and beliefs proclaimed in hymns, prayers and story and by the atmosphere created, we hope to stimulate and reinforce the Christian values which the school upholds, inform its whole curriculum and set the tone of its pastoral relationships.

We see worship as contributing to the pupils' education by developing their knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith but also about many other areas of life.

Through their participation, we hope that pupils will develop skills and confidence and be helped to grow spiritually and morally. Spiritual development for each individual member of the school community is important, and we focus on relationships with ourselves, relationships with others and relationships with God.

Whatever approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian Faith, and be helped to explore them.

These will include:

1. The nature of God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. The nature of Human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life.
3. Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
4. The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity.
5. The central place of the Bible as the source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance.
6. The importance of prayer
7. The central symbols of Christianity
8. The cycle of the Church Year.

Aims and Objectives

1. To create an atmosphere in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship
 - i) A variety of times and venues used contributes positively to the atmosphere of worship.
 - ii) The venue has been well prepared.
 - iii) Staffing arrangements and groupings provide consistency and promote continuity.
2. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith.
 - i) Help pupils understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
 - ii) Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.
 - iii) Celebrate the festivals of the Church Year.
 - iv) Show that God is concerned with all areas of life.
3. To develop links with St Wilfrid's Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
 - i) Learn important and famous prayers of Christianity.
 - ii) Gain a repertoire of prayers to take in adult life.
 - iii) Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material.
4. Continue to develop links with St Wilfrid's Church and share in Parish Worship i.e. Church Festivals and Celebrations.
5. To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.
 - i) Develop the ability to be still and reflective and use silence creatively.
 - ii) Explore all that is of value in life – individual values, values of school, values of life, truth, love, goodness, beauty.
 - iii) Explore and reflect on moral issues and concerns. Help pupils to deepen their awareness of the needs of others.
 - iv) Understand what worship is and what people do when they worship.
 - v) Worship is always inviting, never coercing, remembering that pupils will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should be able to respond and participate at their own level.

Collective Worship at St Wilfrid's/ Resources/Scheme

For each week of the term, there will be a timetable consisting of themes to be delivered.

Collective Worship at St Wilfrid's is not the main vehicle for the delivery of RE within the school but the themes and dimensions addressed in Worship support and enhance the delivery of the RE Curriculum.

An act of Collective worship takes place every day. Most of the time, school worship will be conducted within Key Stages: Key Stage 1 children and staff assembling in the Ash Building Hall and Key Stage 2 children and staff assembling in the Cedar Building Hall. On occasions individual class or year group Collective worship takes place led by teachers and children. Both Key Stages have weekly celebration worship giving thanks to God for our many achievements and blessings. There are times when both key stages meet to worship in the Junior Hall, or in Church, in order to share experiences and develop the sense of whole school belonging.

We have recently established a Christian Ethos group consisting of a group of Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 children. These children plan and deliver, with support, exciting acts of worship and dramatize stories from the Bible using props. They share their worship/drama with the rest of the school in a daily act of worship.

We are involved closely with St Wilfrid's Church. The clergy leads school worship on a weekly basis and we visit Church several times during the year to partake in festivals and services. We actively encourage the exploration of Confirmation in the Christian Family for Y6 children. At the beginning of each term whole staff Eucharist is held. In the Summer Term a year group Eucharist is held for KS2 children with family members invited.

To enhance the worship, introductory music is played. Artefacts and visual aids are also used when appropriate. We aim to give opportunities for quiet reflection and situations where thoughtful responses can be elicited.

We use a wide range of resources to enhance worship at St Wilfrid's e.g. The Bishop's Harvest Appeal and the Children's Society for Christingle.

Worship is evaluated by staff and pupils on a regular basis.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Leaders and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and Governors every three years.

Parental Rights of Withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided Academy

Parents may withdraw their children from Religious Education/Worship as they may in any school. The Worship and Religious Education provided by our school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school. If a request for a withdrawal is made, the head-teacher will explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation.

Signed:

Headteacher: Mr. S. Colothan

Date: June 2017

