



Signed.....
Date.....MARCH 2021
Review.....September 2023.....

Woodford Valley C E Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy

'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

John 13:34-35

Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy is committed to creating the ethos in which children can grow towards Christian life, learning and love. Our policies are influenced by this principle and our approach within our Collective Worship is driven by our belief in the Christian way of life.

Intent

The intention of collective worship is:

- ✘ *to provide an opportunity for all our children to worship God, particularly within Anglican traditions*
- ✘ *to teach children about Jesus, His life and His impact on our lives today*
- ✘ *to enable children to appreciate the value of reflection and prayer and to use this at times throughout the day such as saying grace before lunch and our end of the day prayer*
- ✘ *to enable children to respond with awe and wonder to the created world and all its glories*
- ✘ *to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to work alongside PSHE*
- ✘ *to enable children to explore their own beliefs, thoughts and feelings within an atmosphere of calm, quiet reflection*
- ✘ *to be inclusive of all children, whatever their previous spiritual experience, encouraging participation and response*
- ✘ *to develop in children a sense of community spirit through shared experiences*
- ✘ *to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes and a sense of right and wrong within a Christian context*
- ✘ *to celebrate achievement in respect of individuals, the school and its wider community*
- ✘ *to teach children how to worship and become more involved*

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school community coming together.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. We use the 'Values for Life' resource amongst others and our PSHE themes.

We uphold the particular ethos of this school whilst fulfilling the following organisational requirements:

- ✘ collective worship must be held daily for all registered pupils*
- ✘ collective worship can be held at any time of the school day*
- ✘ collective worship can be whatever grouping the school determines as appropriate*
- ✘ collective worship should take place on the school premises (with the exception of an Aided School where e.g. a church may be used)*

As a Church Academy we believe that collective worship should reflect the Christian Calendar, be in accordance with the Trust Deed and reflect our mission statement. We raise the pupil's awareness of the liturgical year in a school display.

The Implementation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is usually in our school hall for three days, each classroom once a week and in the church once a week. There are three whole school gatherings, a Key Stage gathering and an opportunity for a class worship within the week. Both Key Stage worship and class worship are age appropriate and are planned so that they are accessible for the children that are attending it.

During the national Lockdown and closure of schools to all but our vulnerable pupils and those whose parents are Critical workers we have shared two whole school worships a week using Teams, a worship from the wider church community and two class based worships.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. The following routines are observed:

- ✘ suitable music is playing as children enter the hall, sometimes children join in and sing as they enter*
- ✘ children and adults enter without speaking*
- ✘ children know where they are expected to sit and what is expected of them*
- ✘ the start of worship is signified by the lighting of a candle*
- ✘ children respond to the statement 'This is the day the Lord has made' with 'Let us rejoice and be glad in it'. This can change depending on the liturgical calendar where other responses can be used*
- ✘ there is always an opportunity for quiet reflection*
- ✘ the children are dismissed using gestures to signal which class is to leave first; they often sing as they leave*
- ✘ the candle is extinguished at the end of worship*

The Head Teacher or other members of staff normally conduct worship, but sometimes governors, local clergy members of the PCC or other representatives of local religious or community groups conduct them instead.

We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

There is always a display in the corridor based on the theme of the term and the focus of the Prayer Team. There is opportunity here for the pupils to reflect further and sometimes to take an active part and post prayers or thoughts. It also helps parents and visitors to be aware of the theme we are following and to take a part too, if they wish.

Each class takes it in turn to evaluate and reflect on the impact of the themed worship for that term. This is usually done as a whole class with a small write up. Wherever possible we act on the pupils' reflections and include this in our worship for the next term.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Woodford Valley is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in worship. This may include the presentation of the Merit Trophy and the Class Trophy.

We invite parents to join in worship with the whole school at least once a term and all are invited to attend Parish events like Messy Church and special Sunday services such as Mothering Sunday. We encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

We hold a Eucharist service for all children, staff and any parent wishing to attend at least once a year.

Once a year we offer the opportunity for Year 6 children to be confirmed and for other pupils to be baptised or admitted to their first communion. These follow prepared courses led by the Head Teacher, Vicar and Deputy, the service is usually conducted by the Bishop.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious assemblies and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

The impact, monitoring and review

It is the role of the ethos committee who hold responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The committee

concerned liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

This policy should be read in conjunction with all our policies, in particular RE and Single Equalities policy.