

Policy for Collective Worship at Wickersley St. Alban Primary School

Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Church of England school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the headteacher.

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The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those of no faith

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to the Church of England tradition.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at' to come to terms with and 'to give worth to'

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Church of England character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds, and to make them aware of the liturgical life of the Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience;
- be short and appropriately paced

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- be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	Collective Worship Whole school 10.10am
Tuesday	Collective Worship Whole school 10:10am
Wednesday	Collective Worship Whole school 10:10am
Thursday	Junior Collective Worship led by staff) 9:00am; Infant (led by staff)10:10
Friday	Whole school 9:00am Celebration assembly

School Eucharist termly

Regular opportunities for worship at St. Alban's Church (Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Lent services, Leaver's Service).

Parents are invited to certain acts of Worship throughout the year. They are also invited to the weekly celebration assembly.

Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship
- with positive liturgical experiences based on Apostles Creed
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils, skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.
- with daily opportunities for pupils to lead prayer.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

Resources

Artefacts boxes for Christianity and other faiths
Library – books and videos

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Eucharist

Eucharist celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school, therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm.

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Mrs A Gurner is the Collective Worship Coordinator.

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors in particular will play a most important role.

September 2017

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Appendix 1

The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- ❖ Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- ❖ Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- ❖ Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- ❖ Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it.
- ❖ Organising themes for Worship
- ❖ Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain/incumbent
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE/Collective Worship Adviser

Professional Development/Ongoing Formation

- Leading and organising in-service training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently