



<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Collective Worship</b>
<b>Reference</b>	<b>WPS/November 2017/Version1</b>
<b>Approving Committee</b>	<b>Parents &amp; Community</b>
<b>Chair of Committee</b>	<b>Headteacher</b>
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	<b>November 2019</b>

### **Mission Statement**

**Woodborough School is all about...**

**Christian caring**  
**Happiness**  
**Inspiring**  
**Learning together**  
**Diversity**  
**Rewarding**  
**Enabling**  
**Nurturing**

## **Introduction**

**‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ Matthew 22: 37-38 (The pursuit of excellence)**

**Our core School Values: Courage, Forgiveness, Kindness, Respect, Trust and Truth**

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School we welcome our responsibility of ensuring that our Acts of Worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the governing body. To this end, we strive to create the right environment, deliver the right content and embrace new ideas. We apply our core school values of courage, forgiveness, kindness, respect, trust and truth to enable every individual to flourish within a moral framework built on Christian values. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school.

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

## **Aims and Purpose**

**It is our aim at Woodborough School that worship should:**

- Encourage the children to see worship as relevant to everyday life.
- Help children to prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that they will encounter in later life.
- Extend links with the Church.
- Foster a feeling of community within the school as well as helping to establish a caring atmosphere.
- Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Stimulate a feeling of awe and wonder, enabling us to come closer to God.
- For the adults or children involved it may be an affirmation of their own faith or it may lay the foundation for further Christian experience.

**The act of Collective Worship should:**

- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer, traditional Anglican responses.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual.

- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us.
- Foster a concern for others within the school, the community and the wider world.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- Appreciation of other faiths and respect for different beliefs and practices.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.

### **Organisation and Approach**

Collective Worship is planned around the eighteen Christian values (Generosity, Justice, Wisdom, Responsibility, Peace, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service, Humility, Kindness and Truthfulness) from the Gloucester Diocesan publication, 'Roots and Fruits' and the 'Values for Life' resource, which together form the basis of our worship and wider school life.

The content of all acts of Collective Worship is considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Each term is mapped out to identify the themes, the values or festival for the session, a suggested assembly/story, suggested music and the opening and closing responses. The themes are flexible to allow staff to include current and topical issues.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are used in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can also be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources are used including ICT. Leaders choose the style/method and resources, which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

### **Setting the scene**

A centre point is always created prior to the worship signifying the importance of the time in the hall. This includes a cross, the Bible and a candle.

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types, likewise with the songs we sing. We select our songs/music carefully to match the value/theme.

Each week we have a singing worship (hymn practice) during which, we take time to consider carefully the words of the songs and make this a worshipful experience by our reflection and responses to the words and music. We regularly include 'traditional' hymns.

We aim to provide the opportunity for children to listen to a wide variety of music as they arrive and leave the hall for worship. The entry and exit music also contributes towards creating the reflective atmosphere in the hall space.

Year 6 children are responsible for setting up the hall for worship, for operating the music and ICT equipment.

### **Opening and Closing Collective Worship**

In line with the Church of England tradition, Collective Worship begins and ends with an opening and closing responses.

### **Prayer**

We recognise that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe, because of this we are able to use prayers from many different traditions if we deem appropriate.

Children are invited to contribute to writing and then reading their prayer, based on the term's value. The school prayer is said daily and the Lord's Prayer is regularly shared. A prayer is also offered at lunchtime as a whole school.

In addition to a prayer, we include the use of silence to provide an opportunity for pupils to respond in their own personal way if they so wish. We offer the children the chance to reflect by posing a question for them to think about, relating to the theme of the worship, during a short period of silence.

### **Worship Council**

Children's input in Collective Worship takes the form of pupil led assemblies during each term. Children from Years 5, 4 and 3 plan and lead the Collective Worship, under the guidance of Mrs Needham (Collective Worship Coordinator). The Worship Council also take the lead for whole school celebrations, e.g. Harvest Service, Christingle.

### **Church School Liaison**

A member of the Vale of Pewsey clergy team leads Collective Worship regularly, usually Canon Larkey. Collective Worship is held in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woodborough at the end of Term 2 and 6, along with an Easter Eucharist service. Year 6 children take an active role in all the church services during the year, by leading the prayers and taking the readings. Church services are planned to enable the children to be actively involved and in most services, each class will present an aspect of the theme and will be as actively involved as possible.

The local Team of churches prays for the welfare of the school via their 'Prayer Tree'. Members of the wider church community prepare and lead regular "Open the Book" worship, sharing Bible stories with the children.

All members of the school are invited to take part in family worship at the churches within the Pewsey Team, together with events such as Mothering Sunday, Advent, and Harvest and Holiday Club workshops. These are publicised through our weekly newsletter.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator. The school has a budget to develop these resources. The school can apply to the Bishop Wordsworth Trust for extra funding for Collective worship resources. More details can be found on [www.saled.org](http://www.saled.org)

## **Evaluation**

Collective Worship is evaluated daily by different members of teaching staff. Whole Class evaluation forms are also completed weekly, giving all pupils a voice. This, along with the daily evaluations, are then collated by the Worship Council and changes made where necessary. We consider whether acts of worship have been successful by evaluating against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils.
- Positive response to the shared experience.
- An atmosphere, which matches the theme.
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being.
- A sense of occasion.
- Good order.
- Staff affirmation.
- A sense of challenge.
- Enrichment of pupils' experience .

## **Monitoring**

- Worship leaders regularly reflect on the effectiveness and impact of collective worship.
- Parents and family attending Collective Worship are requested to complete an evaluation form that contributes to our evidence base for self-evaluation.
- Governors are also invited to evaluate Collective Worship when in attendance and provide informal feedback to the Collective Worship Coordinator/Governor.
- Pupil views are shared and discussed with Worship Council and, where possible, pupil interviews are conducted.
- Governors are responsible for monitoring the policy. Visits and reports by governors are discussed as part of the Parents & Community Committee meetings.

## **Legal Status**

The Act of Collective Worship in Woodborough Primary School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

Parents and Carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, but by requesting and accepting a place at Woodborough Church of England Primary School it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and Collective Worship in its daily life.

If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Head teacher. The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

In Voluntary Aided schools teachers, including the head teacher do not have the right of withdrawal.

### **Role of the Co-Ordinator and Governors**

At Woodborough School our Co-ordinator is Mrs Needham, who is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The co-ordinator is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

All governors must bear in mind the principles of the Church of England, of the Trust Deed and of the Ethos Statement of the school in relation to the core elements of governance. It is the role of the foundation governor to put all decisions and discussions within the context of the Christian foundation of the school. Mrs Partis, one of the school's Foundation Governors, has the role of monitoring Collective Worship at the school on behalf of the governing body.

### **Provision For Monitoring and Review**

Collective Worship will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Head teacher, the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and the nominated Foundation Governor. Strengths and areas for development will be highlighted and noted.

The Collective Worship Policy itself should be reviewed every two years.

**Review Date: November 2019**