



“Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16

Waltham-on-the-Wolds Church of England Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Our Vision

In our small rural, church school our vision is to maximise the potential of all learners and encourage them to become responsible global citizens. Based on our Christian and British values we cherish our community and family partnerships, where we celebrate friendship, diversity and inclusion.

"In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Our Values



Introduction

The vision of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship at Waltham School; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values. Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a spiritual time in the school day when children meet together with members of staff, in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. Collective Worship at Waltham is “welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality”.

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 coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. Collective worship will link to the ‘Understanding Christianity Project’ where possible to secure children’s learning.

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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of

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the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs of others.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Legal requirements

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school, which requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.
- Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from collective worship.

School aims

- Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring at Waltham School.
- Collective worship encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Collective worship brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community.
- Collective worship affirms the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- To use story books of a range of faiths and beliefs and explore what they mean to us.

Objectives

- Explore the school’s vision and how that underpins our shared values and virtues
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- Raise pupil’s curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material and well as other faiths or those of no faith
- Help pupils appreciate that we are ‘stewards’ of God’s world
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- Enhance pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them
- Help children distinguish between right and wrong

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- Affirm pupils’ personal worth and responsibility
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements
- Develop a sense of community within the school
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The Head of School has responsibility for managing the worship on a day-to-day basis ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.

Collective Worship will be reviewed within the cycle of School Improvement Planning. This review will cover the following aspects of collective worship: themes and approaches, the development of resources, staff training and support, pupil participation and response.

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly. We present to children the Trinity box which holds the bible (this represents God the father), a cross (representing God the Son) and a candle (the Holy Spirit). It also holds the bible quote for the week. Posters are displayed on the Collective worship board to show the aims of the week, the weekly Christian value and a bible quotation linked to the theme. In our special assembly a special award is given to children (The Owl Award) this is for the child who displays behaviour linked to the associated Christian value.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We teach children that assembly 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. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Pupils are invited out to say spontaneous prayers during assemblies and are also encouraged write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or the adult in charge if they prefer. Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day. Pupils learn and say together from memory our School Prayer, The Lord’s Prayer, The Grace, Lunchtime Prayer and Home time prayer.

The Head of School or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups such as ‘Open the Bible’ conduct them instead. Pupils are also

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invited to lead assemblies, based on the theme for the week and a timetable is set up at the beginning of each term whereby pupils may volunteer by signing up. Each month, Classes also present their learning to parents and friends of the school in their class/whole school thematic assembly.

RECORDS AND MONITORING

- Themes for Collective Worship can be found in our worship file and are shared with the wider community.
- Related resources and ideas are held on the school network and with the RE resources.
- Aims and theme posters are to be displayed in each classroom alongside a reflection area

Monitoring of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head of School and RE co-ordinator. Governors also support this process with termly visits:

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- Classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- The extent of the influence upon pupils’ attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.

The Worship Leaders take notes during Collective Worship, and these are fed back to the senior leadership team regularly. Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary. They also ask for verbal feedback regarding What’s Worked Well and Even Better If’s.

Progression in Spirituality and Collective Worship

We provide a variety of opportunities to develop and promote children’s spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. It teaches us about questioning, understanding and relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond. Spirituality enables our children to be happy; flourish and succeed and live life in all its fullness.

Children are provided with opportunities to develop the four elements of spirituality across the curriculum at school. These elements are:

- Self
- Others
- World
- Transcendence (beyond)

Opportunities for spirituality development are established through the following task styles:

- Windows – to learn about life
- Mirrors – to learn about ourselves
- Doors – to live out our Christian values in the wider world.

Equal Opportunities

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All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school website informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

Multiculturalism

Collective Worship celebrates the global and multicultural nature of Christian worship. A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the world. Acceptance and understanding of other religions is encouraged through the teaching of RE, PSHCE and through worship.

Review

The Local Governing Body will review this policy, formally, 3 years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

Reviewed Autumn 2024

Signed _____ Chair of Governors