

# St Wilfrid's CE Primary School



*'BELONGING, BELIEVING, BECOMING'*

## Policy for Collective Worship

### 1. Fundamentals

#### (a) Christian emphasis

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

#### **Our Mission Statement is:-**

***Our Christian school exists to provide a welcoming environment in which everybody is cherished and challenged to fulfil their potential.***

The School's Mission Statement has been agreed by the Staff, Children, Parents and Governors.

We are part of the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust whose three key values we embrace and which are –

#### ***Belonging, Believing and Becoming***

To **'belong'** is to be part of a family, to know you are valued for who you are, not just what you achieve. As a Christian Foundation our primary place of belonging is in and with the God who loves us, and this informs the culture of acceptance, tolerance and forgiveness that creates and sustains our schools. If you are a parent, a member of staff, or a pupil at our schools then you belong, whatever your beliefs, whatever your background.

To **'believe'** is to grow as a whole person, not just an economic entity. It is to believe in your gifts and talents and to be encouraged and nurtured in an environment of academic excellence and to learn from inspiring teaching professionals.

To **'become'** is the mysterious element in our educational vision. When a child or a member of staff has the security of belonging, and believes in themselves and their environment, then they will 'become' the wonderful and unique person they are destined to be. We will nurture this individuality through a creative and inspiring curriculum and provide opportunities to experience and experiment. To educate is to draw out the uniqueness of the individual and to let it shine.

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 school's Trust Deed states:

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

- (b) Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Church of England **Ethos Statement** through our **Mission Statement** and the **aims** and **ethos** of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.
- (c) Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises at the end of the afternoon sessions as well as graces said before lunch.
- (d) The Church of England  
Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church and be aware of other festivals and celebrations in other faiths.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;

- 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;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

(e) Collective Worship is

- Communication with God
- Adoration praise and thanksgiving to God
- A quiet moment in a busy day

Worship is a time to gather together in the presence of God sharing, praising, teaching, learning reflecting and celebrating. Worship could include a story, drama, role play, dance, poetry, Bible reading, music, singing and prayer. Singing is a time to celebrate and praise God. A story, drama or role-play a time to express God's word, a time to empathize with others and prayer a time to open our hearts to God reflect and speak quietly to him.

The links with local Churches are important. Clergy visit school to lead worship as often as possible, currently every half term due to the Rector working at St Wilfrid's Church part time. The school uses St Wilfrid's Church for Key Services four or five times a year.

Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the Leaver's Service in July.

Year 6 attend the Leavers Service at Manchester Cathedral in the Summer Term.

Children visit the Church as part of the Religious Studies.

When possible the children visit other Churches to see first-hand the layout and style of worship other Christian Churches use e.g. Northenden Methodist Church.

(f) Collective Worship and assembly.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

- (g) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils and their individual faiths.
- (h) A combination of topics are linked to the Wow in Worship, related to the Diocesan R.E. Syllabus.

## **2. Responsibility for the policy**

- (a) The Head teacher will be in charge of the co-ordination of the policy along with the RE Subject Leader and the R.E Governor.

## **3. Statement of broad aims**

The aims of Collective Worship at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School are

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour through prayer and opportunities for silent reflection.
- To help children discover their place in the world and celebrate their gifts, talents and achievements.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian Festivals.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as friendship, thankfulness, endurance, forgiveness, koinonia and trust.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both global and environmental issues and foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.

## **4. Organisation and Delivery**

- a) The agreed pattern of weekly and termly worship, at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School is as follows. All classes from Reception to Year 6 will meet together at

either the beginning of the school day or at 10am, in the hall, unless otherwise directed. The children will come in quietly to music. The St Wilfrid's School Morning Prayer will be collected said and the candle on the prayer table lit.

Worship will usually comprise of a hymn, reading and talk followed by a short explanation then conclude with a prayer or prayers, always including the Lord's Prayer. After notices the children will leave the hall to quiet music.

b) All staff will lead their own worship in classes when required. The Head teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Leadership Team will lead most assemblies along with Clergy (Rev. Andrew Bradley). KS 1 Class Assemblies will take place on Wednesdays and on Tuesdays for Key Stage 2. Each class will lead an assembly twice a year. EYFS/KS1 will carry out the Nativity story at Christmas.

Other Services and short forms of worship will take place in classes or when appropriate.

c) Collective Worship lasts usually around 15 minutes. Clergy and Gold Book Achievement Assemblies may last a little longer. Church Services may take between half an hour to an hour.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils should become involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music.

d) Opportunities for parents, family and governors to attend service are given, especially for the Class Assemblies and Services in Church.

e) A worshipful atmosphere is to be created and sustained, through the use of music, silence, the appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting and the use of the Prayer Table (coloured cloth, Bible, cross, and candle)

f) Worship will be distinguished from notices and other 'assembly' activities, by the above mentioned words, lighting and extinguishing the candle.

g) The arrangements (or the possible arrangements) for any withdrawals is provided at the end of this document.

- h) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.

## **5 Content and Approaches**

- (a) The range of content is currently being organised to be used in a two year cycle.

This syllabus is subject to change and adaptation if things don't prove successful. Also other society speakers, special events and festivals will be marked as they occur throughout the year.

- (b) Approaches will vary depending on the topic, group leading worship and the type of worship being lead., The range will include some of the following: Adult and pupil led worship, story telling, music and movement, drama, poetry, (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.

## **6. Resources**

- b) A selection of classical and calm music is used as the children enter and leave the hall.
- c) Teachers' Dozen, Lap Top, Internet sites, CD Roms, the R.E syllabus and books aid the planning of worship.

## **7. Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

- (a) The RE Subject Lead and Headteacher coordinate and managing Collective Worship.
- (b) Provision for staff development for the co-ordinator and for other staff, and any governor training for Collective Worship will be in line with the School Development Plan and priorities.
- c) Records of Acts of Worship are kept. Half termly plans and weekly records.

Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship will be recorded by pupils. This will be used to evaluate worship and then used in the action plan.

Worship is to be reported to Governors on a termly basis. The policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school**

**(a) Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

**(b) Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups or in classes but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any time in the school day.

**(c) Worship in Church**

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

**(d) Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school prospectus which is available on the website.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England. 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 pupils from the religious life of the school.

**(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal

procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

**Date of review: September 2016**

**Review date: September 2017**