

Wrighton Church of England Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2018

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Wrington C of E Primary School
'Cherish and nurture, flourish and aspire'

Collective Worship Policy

This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Wrington C of E Primary School's Collective Worship Policy Statement:

At Wrington, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement:

'to create a vibrant learning community founded on Christian values, forging close partnerships which enable every child to flourish and aspire.'

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God, celebrate achievements and reflect on our own and others' experiences together. Worship is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We identify the values of reverence, wisdom, thankfulness, humility, endurance, service, compassion (love), trust, peace, forgiveness, friendship, justice, hope, creation, koinonia (fellowship). (*National Society*)

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

"....love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples". John 13:34-35

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and personal reflection.

Values Education

We combine Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is promoted and supported by developing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform

Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday: Key Stage worship (EYFS/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) led by the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team. The themes are usually the same, but content is differentiated appropriately.

Tuesday: Open the Book worship for Key Stage 1 and 2 led by people within the community from both the URC and All Saints'

Wednesday: Key Stage worship (EYFS/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) led by Clergy (or their representatives) alternately from All Saints' Church and United Reform Chapel. The themes are usually the same, but content is differentiated appropriately.

Thursday: Whole school worship through song, with prayer/reflection time, usually led by the Music Leader (Assistant Head). Children also are singing leaders and contribute to this.

Friday: Whole school celebration service led by the Headteacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team. This celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Four children from two or three classes are selected to receive a special mention and certificate from their class teacher. A Bravo Song is sung as well as a hymn and children invited to Ms Joskey's Tea/Breakfast Party for politeness and behaviour are announced.

Each class leads a class assembly once during the school year when parents relatives and friends are invited to join us. The theme is the liturgical theme for the week.

Special services marking Festivals within the church calendar are also undertaken and many of these are also child-led with different classes taking responsibility for different parts. Examples include Easter, Harvest, Ash Wednesday, All Saints' Day, Pentecost, Remembrance. These take place in school and in the church or chapel.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship.

The act of worship should last approximately 15 minutes. Staff (teachers and/or support staff) attend daily worship. Children are encouraged to actively participate and lead in acts of worship. A hymn or reflective song is normally sung.

We encourage children to reflect and have a variety of opportunities for spiritual reflection. To this end there are a number of places around the school (inside and out) for such contemplation. Each class has a reflection area and the welcome area in the entrance is also used by some as a place of stillness and calm. Outside our spiritual areas include the Diamond Jubilee garden with viewing platform to the conservation area, the willow circle and the organic garden.

Collective worship occurs at a number of different locations in school (on the field, in classes, in the school hall and in the library) and outside (All Saints' Church, URC). We also take part in special services at Wells Cathedral (e.g. Leavers' Service).

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday and Wednesday collective worship reflect our theme focus for that half term based on SEAL (Twelve Baskets scheme, all Biblically referenced), our Christian value for the term (based on Roots and Fruits resource), the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of appropriate music. Live or recorded music may be used. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments. The candle on the altar table is lit and the worship begins. It might include drama, a story, dance, poetry or other reflections.

The children are regularly involved in the worship, which usually finishes with a prayer/reflection and hymn.

Worship through Song is based on the theme for the forthcoming week. A mixture of traditional (to share the heritage of more historical worship song) and modern hymns are used.

Open the Book uses stories taken from the Story Teller's Bible and follows the pattern and guidance from Open the Book material. Children participate in the dramatic telling of Bible stories with members of our local community. A song is not normally sung at this.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including 'Worship through Song'. A range of prayers is used including the candle prayer, the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship usually led by the Headteacher or member of the SLT, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of the candle* and the saying of the candle prayer. A cross is also displayed on the altar table with appropriately coloured (liturgical) cloth.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. A prayer is also said in class at the end of the school day. Full Governors meetings also begin with prayer led by either the Chair of Governors or a Foundation Governor.

**a number of different candles may be used including the wooden flame candle, church candle or Trinity candle with three wicks)*

Christianity as a world faith

We recognise Christianity as a world faith and seek to share different ways in which Christians from other cultures worship through their own customs, traditions and practices. We support a number of Christian charities with world links e.g. Send a Cow, Christian Aid, as well as more locally based e.g. Somewhere to Go.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each others' faiths and cultures, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. We recognise that children in our school family may have a variety of faiths or none and everyone has an important part to play in our nurturing community.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Acts of worship are carefully planned, recorded and evaluated as appropriate. The four year cycle of worship (Twelve Baskets) is in place, all linked to Bible reference with a two year cycle of Christian value focus. Training is encouraged and available for those who lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Wrington CE Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. We regularly visit All Saints' Church and the whole school attends annual Harvest, Ash Wednesday and Leavers' Services. A family candlelit school Christmas carol service and Education Sunday also take place in the church led by children and the whole school community. We are proud of our ecumenical links and we often use URC for Easter and Pentecost services as well as the Key Stage 1 Nativity performances. Visiting clergy lead worship weekly.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- Community links are encouraged and are seen as important to the school's mission: eg support with Christingle, Flower arranging, Easter Arts Trail, church days, Remembrance village service. A member of the school teaching staff supports these links.

- There is a link governor for R.E. on the governing body. The R.E. coordinator, Collective Worship Leader and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E./ worship and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.
- The Foundation Governor reports regularly to the PCC meetings and the APCM

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

March 2018