

Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



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Mission Statement

We provide quality first teaching in a loving Christian environment where everyone is respected and valued as a unique child of God.

Safeguarding Statement

Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the physical, mental and emotional welfare of every pupil both inside and outside of the school premises. We implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.

Vision

With God's help, we do all we can to be the best we can be.

Policy Aims

As a Methodist Primary School, it is our aim to instil the values, traditions and beliefs of the Methodist Church in our pupils, as well as knowledge of the broader Christian faith.

As an inclusive school, we also encourage the children to understand and respect the views of those from other or no faith traditions, so that they can be understanding of the many beliefs and traditions that make up our multi-cultural society.

Most importantly, times of collective worship allow the school to share, celebrate and affirm our sense of community, strengthening the school culture.

At Wheatley Lane, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general culture of the school we seek to promote our vision of ***'With God's help, we do all we can to be the best we can be'***. The worship of the school is based on promoting the vision and our associated Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, chaplain, and other visitors are valued highly.

Worship Aims

At Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School, collective worship is at the heart of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. It is constantly evolving and re-imagined to provide children and adults with a dynamic experience.

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School are to:

- Explore the school vision, so it can be fulfilled at all times and in all places
- Provide opportunities, without compulsion, for children and adults to grow spiritually and morally through the experience of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Explore the 'Fruits of the Spirit': love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control and faithfulness.
- Explore the Christian values of compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship, generosity, justice, perseverance, respect, service, thankfulness, trust and truthfulness.
- Explore virtues that develop character and contribute to academic progress: resilience, determination and creativity
- Encounter the teachings of Jesus through stories to help children and adults appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world
- Understand the Trinitarian nature of God
- Enable all children and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways: through music, silence, story, prayer, imagery and reflection.
- Provide a peaceful environment that encourages and invites children and adults to actively participate in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship, in ways that lead to improving practice.

- Develop a spirit of community: for children and adults to *want* to love and serve others and be courageous advocates
- Promote the work of John Wesley and encourage children and adults to also see the world as their parish
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate all major, and some minor, Christian festivals and some major festivals of other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community and church.
- Respect everyone equally– those of Christian faith, different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith
- Promote democracy; the rule of law; and individual liberty.

The Legislative Framework

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the requirement for:

-A **daily** act of collective worship for **all** pupils

-**Most** acts of collective worship are to be “wholly or mainly of broad Christian character”

-Arrangements to provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age or school groups.

-Ensuring that relevant information is available to parents regarding arrangements for collective worship and rights of withdrawal.

-This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to the following: DfE (1994) ‘Religious, Education and Collective Worship’ and ‘Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance version 18.5.21’

Definition of Collective Worship

For the purpose of this policy, ‘Collective worship’ is an act additional to and separate from ordinary school activities. Pupils in collective worship time are able to work collaboratively to promote and explore Christian values and the school vision.

Planning and Organisation

The long term plan for collective worship is created annually by the Headteacher. A programme of themes is identified for each half term, which include the celebration of key Christian festivals, Christian values focus, themed weeks including fundraising opportunities, major festivals from other faiths, and pertinent stories to be shared. (See Appendix 1: Worship Plan)

Collective worship is held from 8:50am – 9.10am in the school hall, church or classrooms. This is so the community can gather together as one, whether in times of crisis or celebration, before the start of the school day.

Worship begins by children entering to a piece of music. A candle is lit to start the worship. A call to worship is then said:

Leader: God is good

Response: All the time

Leader: All the time

Response: God is good

Beginning collective worship in this way gives the school a sense of fellowship and cohesion.

During worship, children will sing, a key message will be shared through stories, drama, or other activities and there will be an opportunity for prayer and reflection. School will sometimes invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship in accordance with the timetabled theme.

It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

The following are used as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost
- Learning and saying traditional prayers or responses from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and John Wesley's rule
- Singing the Faith (Celebrating through traditional and modern songs that are Christian in nature and reflect our Christian values)
- Active participation of children – *not* passive attendance.

The current structure of collective worship is as follows.

Monday	Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by the Church (Rev. Adrian or Mrs Brassington)
Wednesday	Singing the Faith led by the Headteacher and the Music Subject Leader
Thursday	Whole School Worship – either led by a class or a teacher
Friday	Epworth Worship Together – in classes

At the start of each half term, Holy Communion will take place either in school or in church. Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, in which the Church responds to Jesus' command "Do this in remembrance of me." Wheatley Lane Methodist Church offers an "open table" and in the spirit of inclusivity all are welcome to share in Holy Communion. It is invitational and therefore there is a choice for all. No one is excluded from the service because they choose not to receive Holy Communion. The "wine" served is non-alcoholic and the "bread" gluten free. Thursday worship is often led by a class. Parents, members of the congregation and friends of the school are invited to join us. The emphasis is placed on visitors joining us for "worship" rather than coming to watch the children "perform". Each class leads approximately three worships a year taking place both in school and church.

Our Worship Leaders, a group of children, regularly lead whole school worship, under the guidance of the Headteacher.

The whole school community and wider school and church family come together for special services such as Harvest, Christingle, Christmas Carol service, Aldersgate Day, Easter and the Year 6 leavers' service – where children are actively involved in the planning, delivering and evaluating process.

Prayer and Reflection

Each classroom has its own prayer and reflection area. Each prayer and reflection area follows the 4 I's: inclusive, invitational, inspiring and interactive.

Inclusive: Children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many children and adults in our school come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many children will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Inclusion requires child involvement in planning and evaluating the reflection areas and the activities and resources within them.

Invitational: Children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to 'do anything', allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Children and adults will always be invited to pray whilst being given the option for quiet reflection if they do not wish to join in with prayer.

Inspiring: Children, their families and other adults can expect the reflection areas they encounter to be inspirational. These spaces enable children and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates children and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship and reflection, children and adults should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Interactive: Children, their families and other adults can expect the reflection areas they encounter to be interactive. Worship, prayer and reflection are interactive in that they involve meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Reflection areas include big questions to consider and activities are provided for children and adults to record some of their ideas, if they wish to do so. Tasks, games and books may be provided in reflection areas to deepen understanding of a particular theme, story or belief.

School Prayers

Children are invited to collectively recite the following prayers:

During collective worship: The Lord's Prayer, The School Blessing, Our School Prayer.

Before lunch: Our Lunch time prayer

At the end of the day: The School Blessing



Lunch Time Prayer KS2
For what we are about to
receive
May the Lord make us truly
thankful
For Jesus Christ's sake
Amen

The School Blessing
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Hear us call to you.
Bless us each and every day
In all we say and do
Amen

Our School Prayer
Dear Lord,
Thank you for our families and
friends, our church and school
community.
Sorry for making mistakes when
we don't try hard and when
things go wrong.
Please keep us safe , help us with
the things we do and guide us to
make the right choices.
Help us to keep on loving you and
to know you will always love us.
Amen

Children's Participation

We encourage all children to take part in our acts of worship through song, prayers, reflection, discussion and evaluation. Volunteers may be selected to help with role plays, lead actions for songs, or take part in presentations and games as part of an act of worship.

Children from Year 6 are worship monitors, organising the worship table, music and projector, and setting out the hall. Children in Key Stage 2 are invited to become Worship Leaders to plan and lead acts of worship for the school.

Each class will also lead several worships for the school where parents are invited to come along and take part.

All children are invited to take part in prayer during worship as well as the class prayers at lunchtime and at the end of each day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing appreciation and understanding regardless of belief. During worship, children may learn about the religious calendar of other faiths and continue this celebration as a class. The World faiths taught at Wheatley Lane include Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Please see RE Policy for further details.

Implementation

The school aims to promote meaningful and rich collective worship experiences that are suitable to children's needs, ages and interests by:

- Being encouraged to contemplate and reflect on their beliefs, feelings and thoughts.
- Being exposed to different worship experiences: prayer (including silent individual), rituals, shared or written prayers, Singing the Faith and reflection
- Promoting and enhancing thoughts and spiritual ideas through displays and activities
- Using artefacts, stories, music, drama, art, speakers and resources to promote awe, wonder and interest.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective worship can make a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils. Those planning, preparing and leading worship consider the following ways in which worship can make such a contribution:

a) To spiritual development by (for example)

- Encouraging children to consider their own values and attitudes
- Reflecting on human experience
- Exploring their own and other peoples' beliefs
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- Providing opportunities to see from another person's perspective

b) To moral development by (for example):

- Developing a sense of right and wrong
- Examining motives for actions
- Encouraging consideration towards others
- Developing pupil's awareness of the needs of others
- Promoting honesty and integrity
- Exploring issues of evil and suffering
- Encouraging moral behaviour

c) To Social Development by (for example):

- Listening to the views of others
- Promoting good relationships between individuals and groups
- Promoting concern for those with special needs
- Communicating with increasing confidence
- Encouraging concern for the common good and the good of others

d) To Cultural Development by (for example):

- Enabling discussion from different cultural perspectives
- Encouraging pupils to see the worth of themselves, their family, religion; beliefs and culture
- Enabling pupils to encounter people from other cultures
- Promoting interest in culture and its expression

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Wheatley Lane Methodist Primary School ensures that 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 which promote positive attitudes about diversity.

Through visits to places of worship, children are given an opportunity to discover, experience and reflect on their own religion and beliefs but also on those of others. They are able to see, touch and discover sacred artefacts and places, provoking a sense of awe and wonder. Through these experiences, children develop their use of correct terminology and they gain a deeper understanding and respect for others in our diverse world.

Visitors and Religious Education specialists are also invited to school to share their experiences and knowledge, to educate, motivate and interest children.

Parents and Families

Each class leads acts of worship each year and parents and families are invited into school to enjoy these. These worships may be centred around Christian Values, a particular festival or celebration, or a Bible story. Parents and families are also invited to join our celebrations such as Harvest, Nativities and Christmas Carol service,

The Right to Withdraw

As a Church School, we actively encourage all children to take a full part in our acts of worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from any act of worship on personal religious grounds. In these circumstances, parents would be asked to discuss their views with the headteacher before a decision is made. Alternative arrangements for the child's supervision would be made during times where their class are involved in an act of worship. The prospectus makes it clear to parents about the right to withdraw their child from worship and how to exercise this right.

Equal Opportunities

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.

Monitoring and Review

The impact of worship is monitored and reviewed in a number of ways, including:

- Children's evaluations of worship
- Parents'/Family evaluations of worship
- School Chaplain visits
- Learning Walks by the SLT

The worship plan is evaluated and reviewed annually by the Headteacher.

This policy is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher every three years, or sooner to meet the expectations of current local and national changes.