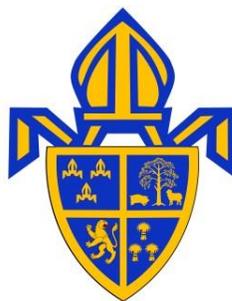




Collective Worship Policy

Version APPROVED

Updated: September 2020



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Wincle School's Collective Worship Policy

Our school's vision:

Wincle School creates an enriching and outstanding rural education, nurturing the whole individual: body, mind and soul, inspiring rounded, happy, courageous children who exhibit a passion for learning, a confident faith, a loving concern for community and an inclusive respect for all.

We live at a time when children feel besieged by social media, weighed down by pressure and report poor mental health. Collective worship offers ten minutes in a day for children to pause and explore the big existential questions such as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' and 'How then should I live?' Offering this in the context of authentic Christian worship is not 'religious indoctrination' but a simple chance for children of all faiths and none to develop spiritually and gain perspective in an otherwise crowded day. Collective worship at Wincle positively contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural life of the school and development of its pupils: nurturing the whole individual.

We encourage our pupils to 'Shine like Stars' (Philippians 2:15) and to do this run with the following acronym:

S	Service	<p>★ No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to have the confidence to know that they can make a difference: have hope for the future.</p> <p>★ We encourage our pupils to challenge injustice and inequality</p>
T	Theology	<p>★ Our principles are founded on the truth that we are loved by the Father, Saved by the Son and Sanctified by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>★ We want to ignite passion and curiosity for learning, providing an exciting curriculum to inspire all learners to be the best they can be.</p>
A	Attitude	<p>★ We encourage our pupils to show integrity</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to have the courage to fight for what is important</p> <p>★ When things are challenging, we would like our pupils to display perseverance and not give up.</p> <p>★ Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow" Albert Einstein</p>
R	Relationships	<p>★ We nurture the whole individual: body, mind and soul</p> <p>★ We encourage the pupils to respect every living creature and show compassion.</p> <p>★ We would like our children to treat other people as they would like to be treated following Jesus' example. We are all unique</p> <p>★ We help all children build trusting relationships</p> <p>★ Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Colossians 3:12)</p>
S	Shine like stars	<p>★ "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." (John 8:12)</p> <p>★ We would like our pupils to shine in their behaviour, attitudes, relationships and learning.</p>

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by the governors and headteacher. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have also been referred to.

The right of withdrawal.

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus where it states:

'Parents do have the right to withdraw children from religious education and collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this option should discuss it with the headteacher.'

If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enroll their children.

Aims and Objectives

At Winkle C of E Primary School, we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.
- develop a sense of being part of a global community: exploring the companion links that exist between the local diocese/world Church and schools internationally.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;

- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and Vicar John Harries. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. In Winkle C of E primary school, this will occur regularly on termly cycle.

Evaluation

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The headteacher and foundation governor, including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators.

Review

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every four years. A worship planning sheet is kept termly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At Winkle C of E Primary School, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship lies with the head teacher. She plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is also the responsibility of head teacher

Conclusion

At Winkle C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Winkle C of E Primary School, we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

Signature and date

Policy last reviewed: September 2020.

Next review date: September 2024.

Worship Co-ordinator: Sarah Smith (Head Teacher)

Governor responsible for collective worship: Rev John Harries