



## Collective Worship Policy

Version APPROVED

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## Version control

Date updated:	Brief summary of changes:
November 2024	Policy rewritten

### 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 shine in all that they say and do. They exhibit a passion for learning, a confident faith, a loving concern for community and an inclusive respect for all.*

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

<b>S</b>	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>
<b>T</b>	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>
<b>A</b>	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>
<b>R</b>	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>
<b>S</b>	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>

## Wincle School's Collective Worship Policy

### Introduction

Wincle CE Primary School is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation and collaboration of worship are all taken seriously by the school.

The Church of England Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' states: We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this. (p.10).

At Wincle CE Primary School, collective worship is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

### Aims and Objectives

At Wincle 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.

### Organisation

We join together in an Act of Collective Worship to thank our God through our prayers and praise Him through songs. Worship is at 1.10pm each afternoon; it is when we make time for God in our busy lives. We worship for at least 20 minutes every day. We want everyone to feel respectful and calm but relaxed and comfortable and welcome in God's family.

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. Collective worship is:

- Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.
- A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day. No assumption is made that we all have the same beliefs and values.

Through Collective Worship, we blend Christian, Biblical teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, spiritually and intelligently.

Each year, a long-term plan is completed as outlined below.



Yearly Overview					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
1) Shine Like a Star linked to our school vision and values 2) The power of prayer and prayer spaces 3) Sustainable Development Goals 4) Complete the Big Story of the Old Testament  <b>Church Season:</b> Ordinary time after Pentecost  <b>Key dates:</b> Harvest Macmillan Coffee Morning	1) Complete the Big Story of the Old Testament 2) Justice 3) Advent  <b>Church Seasons:</b> Advent Christmas  <b>Key dates:</b> Diwali Anti-bullying week St. Andrew's Day Remembrance Inter Faith Week	1) The life of Jesus 2) Learning about Rwanda and Phionah 3) Sustainable Development Goals  <b>Church Season:</b> After Epiphany  <b>Key dates:</b> Chinese New Year Lent	1) The Big Story of the New Testament 2) Easter  <b>Church Seasons:</b> Lent Easter  <b>Key dates:</b> St. Patrick's Day St. David's Day Ramadan World Book Day	1) Christian Values 2) Sustainable Development Goals  <b>Church Season:</b> Pentecost  <b>Key dates:</b> St. George's Day Eid	1) Fruits of the Spirit  <b>Church Season:</b> Ordinary time after Pentecost  <b>Key dates:</b>

Worship is then planned in detail on a weekly basis and this can be accessed on our school website.

### Worship structure

When planning collective worship, we build in a spiritual dimension with opportunities for prayer, reflection and quiet. Children are invited to pray or sing and there is a sense of respect for the integrity of our pupils. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Each Act of Worship will follow the same agreed format for worship, this includes class led worship. The worship area, in all classrooms and the main hall, is special, the focal point for worship and should be treated as such. Nothing should be placed on it. Worship in the classroom still needs a focal point which includes a candle.

**Welcome:** We are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God. We gather together for this special time of fellowship as a community

**Learn:** We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible We listen to God's message and consider how it might apply to our own lives.

**Respond:** We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection. We are given the invitation to worship God in different ways.

**Reflect:** We consider our position and the strength of our actions.

**Take Away/next steps:** We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the World We are all sent out with God's blessing.

### What do we do in our worship?

When we come to Collective Worship, we are showing that we are the Family of God (children and grown-ups who work in our school, our parents, friends and visitors), we are a community and value this time worshipping together.

When we are invited to pray, we talk to God; we do this out loud when we pray together and sometimes, quietly in our own heads, and we know God can hear us.

When we look at our cross and candle, it helps us to think about God and give our worship time as a special time to Him. We light our candle as a 'symbol' (sign) that Jesus is with us as the 'light of the world' and that He is with us in our worship and daily life. We hope that like a candle lights the darkness, you feel that He will help you when you are afraid or worried. We also consider how we can 'shine like a star' in all that we do, following in Jesus' footsteps.

When we sing, we are invited to join in. We choose songs that match with the seasons, the Christian year, our Family of God or giving thanks. Some are fun and louder, some are softer and thoughtful. Our songs can show the mood of our worship and that there are sad times, happy time and peaceful times. We have action and signing songs to include all.

When we listen to music, it can make us feel calm or lively. We use music as part of our worship, or to come in or leave by. Children might share special work to show us how good their work is or to help us to learn something new from them. Children might share a prayer that they have written or a poem. We celebrate when our team wins or plays sport with fair play. We clap children who join in competitions for sport, music or art. We often thank those children and grown-ups who look after our school and make it look so lovely, it takes special gifts and talents to look after nature and wonder at God's creation. We celebrate when someone looks after another.

When we listen, we learn about God and Jesus, the Christian Church and how Christians live their lives and celebrate the Christian year. We listen to stories that make us think carefully about our lives and how we live with others. Sometimes we learn about other faiths so that we can come to understand different beliefs and ways of living. We learn about Christian festivals and we join in services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We learn about Advent, Lent and Pentecost.

When we join in through acting out stories, sharing answers and ideas, performing dance and music or making something for everyone to look at (like an Advent ring, a picture or model), we are adding to the worship and helping everyone to remember the message of our worship.

When we feel a sense of awe and wonder we recognise that we are a special part of God's awesome, wonderful creation and that He is infinite and omnipresent, sometimes we can't answer questions about God because He is too marvellous and we marvel at His work.

When we reflect we think about our life and think about what we have learned for our own lives. It might be about the way we behave (our moral and social life) or about how we feel inside and our sense of peace, calm and connectedness to the Spiritual world which is greater than our day to day routines. Reflection is our quiet time with our God.

### **Legal background**

We accept that: "All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship" unless "the parent . . . requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school" [1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)]

We acknowledge the parents' right to withdraw their children and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of the school and is not an occasion for evangelism. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives.

For our school: "The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England." Collective Worship at Wincle CE Primary is delivered in accordance with the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring.

### Worship table

Items on the worship table include:

- Cross - with liturgical colour ribbon
- Candle
- Bible

### Liturgical Colours

Church calendar	Colour	Meaning	Dates
Ordinary	Green	Hope, life and growth	June – 23 November 2024
Christ the king	White	Purity	24 November – 30 November
Advent	Purple	Penance and preparation	1 December – 24 December
Christmas and epiphany	White	Purity	25 December – 12 January 2025
Ordinary	Green	Hope, life and growth	13 January – 4 March
Lent	Purple	Penance and preparation	5 March – 19 April
Easter	White	Purity	20 April – 7 June
Pentecost	Red	Sacrifice	8 June
Ordinary	Green	Hope, life and growth	9 June – 29 November 2025

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and Vicar Elizabeth England. 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

## **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.

## **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.