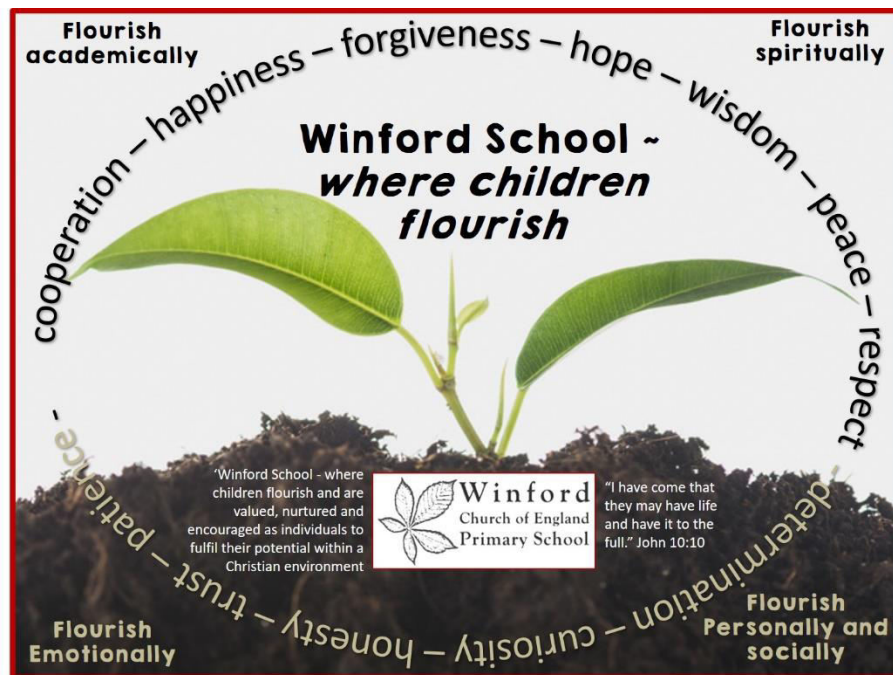


Policy for Collective Worship (CW)

Winford Church of England Primary School

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Winford School, where children flourish



Flourish Academically	Flourish Spiritually	Flourish Emotionally	Flourish Personally
<p>We strive for our pupils to flourish academically so that pupils see value in effort, achieve well and be the best that they can be.</p> <p><i>'An intelligent heart acquires knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge'</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 18:15</i></p> <p><i>'If you stop learning, you will forget what you already know'</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 19:27</i></p>	<p>We aim for pupils to be reflective, be able to ask big questions, to appreciate a sense of awe in the world, and react emotionally such things.</p> <p><i>'But the fruit of the spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control;'</i> Galations 22-23</p> <p><i>'In the farthest corners of the earth the glorious acts of God shall startle everyone. The dawn and sunset shout for joy!'</i> Psalm 65:8</p>	<p>Our desire is that pupils learn about recognising their own emotions, what they mean and how to deal with them positively.</p> <p><i>'Be angry and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.'</i> Ephesians 4:26</p> <p><i>Be strong and courageous. 'Do not be afraid or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.'</i> Joshua 1:9</p>	<p>To flourish personally, we aim for pupils to grow and develop into a good citizen, to develop interests talents and a sound set of morals based around our Christian values.</p> <p><i>'let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions'</i> 1 John 3:18</p> <p><i>'Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.'</i> Matthew 22:39</p>

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In Winford Church of England Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is one of the main platforms for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring our values along with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Winford Church of England Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Winford Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

The right of withdrawal

At Winford Church of England Primary School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Winford Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.

- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was agreed with governors after consultation.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Behaviour
- Spirituality
- Vision and values document

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

Our worship usually follows the pattern below:

Monday- Visit from the Open the Book team. Worship includes acting out stories from the Bible, discussion around the content, interaction and participation from pupils and a prayer.

Tuesday- We alternate between fortnightly visits from the Diocesan chaplain Angela Fraser, the Headteacher or a teacher on rotation. Worship involves linking a story or message to our value of the term, participation from children and a prayer, or linking a message about a Christian calendar event ie Shrove Tuesday, Advent, Epiphany etc.

Wednesday- Class or house worship. These follow the value of the term at an age appropriate level. House groups are planned and led entirely by Year 6 pupils and finish with a prayer.

Thursday- Singing of a largely Christian nature led by the Headteacher. The prayer shared on this day is one either written by children, or a prayer of thankfulness compiled with children's ideas on the day. This is interactive as children sometimes choose the songs, but standing to participate is encouraged.

Friday- Celebration worship, where all aspects of children's flourishing are noted and celebrated. This is linked to the schools values. This is the time when we as a community are able to reflect on the achievements and learning of the

children. This provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It also plays an important part in promoting the vision of the school.

Additionally, the school performs acts of Worship at the church for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. These services give every child an opportunity to engage and participate in the Worship experience.

Planning and preparation

Collective worship usually follows a theme for a term at a time. Clear note is taken of the Christian Year and the curriculum map. Note is also taken of previous evaluations from children, staff and clergy so that the quality of worship continues to rise.

Careful thought is given to the creation of an appropriate atmosphere by using digitally projected visuals, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Acts of collective worship follow a recognisable format with some patterns that are familiar e.g. the greeting at the beginning. The worship should last for between 15 and 20 minutes and involve listening to stories, Bible Readings and other relevant quotations, use of movement, drama, artefacts and audio-visual material.

In most acts of collective worship there will be songs. We are careful in our choice of words and try to choose songs that are inclusive and speak of God's love for all.

There is usually a quiet time for reflection or a prayer. We regularly use our school prayer, children's own work, or prayers that are created from children's ideas in the moment. Children will be encouraged to join in and to say "Amen" if they want to make the prayer their own.

Children's involvement are key to engagement. All children should feel able to contribute to collective worship. Older children should be involved in planning whole school worship events e.g. Year 6 planning Remembrance Event Because we want to be inclusive and recognise the value of other faith traditions there will be some occasions where stories and traditions from other faiths may be used.

Aspects of Anglican tradition typically used during worship are: and opening liturgy, the lighting of three candles to represent the Holy Trinity, the use of a special table only used for worship, and the table having a cloth of the correct liturgical colours.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the duty of the Headteacher and the Governors. Evaluations of acts of worship are carried out by staff and children.

Conclusion

Collective worship is central to and enriches the life of the school community at Winford. It is a time where teachers and children may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers. This policy is available on our school website.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading Collective Worship, including a code of conduct
- Example Visitors Leaflet about Collective Worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas

- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?

Date of next review:

Headteacher signed:

Date:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: