



## Collective Worship Policy

***"Living the Gospel in the spirit of love and respect".***

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Coordinator                     | SLT   |
| Groups involved in discussion   | Governing Body<br>Headteacher<br>Senior Leadership<br>All Staff<br>Children<br>Parents                        |
| Link to school improvement plan | Section 8 – further develop the Catholic Life of the school to ensure the school remains good to outstanding. |

“Worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.”

(Circular 1/94)

Collective worship at St Wilfrid’s provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God. It is rooted in the example and teachings of Jesus Christ whilst taking into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. Collective Worship is an educational experience or a reflection to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church,
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

### **Aims**

Through our Worship together we aim to:

- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To reflect on personal beliefs
- To develop community spirit
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To mark as special
- To give worth to

- To wonder at
- To take time out
- To come to terms with...

St Wilfrid's school wants to provide opportunities for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. We encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship through listening and joining in the worship offered. We also want to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

## Objectives

Through the year, the pupils will experience celebrations in St Wilfrid's Church, the school hall, the classroom and when possible the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Celebrations will reflect thanksgiving, feast days, the church's seasons, and special occasions and will address the emotions and feelings of young people such as joy, friendship, sadness, loneliness, anger etc.

Celebrations will sometimes be open to families, parishioners and the local community.

Worship is concerned with the honour and glory of God and we hope that our acts of worship will be restive, friendly and prayerful, with participants gaining positive feelings from the experience.

Worship in a Catholic school is more than just a legal requirement; it is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of our school's overall provision for prayer and worship. The worship in school is **Collective Worship**.

The following guidelines provide a framework for the Collective Worship that takes place in St. Wilfrid's School.

## Collective Worship

To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship through listening and joining in the worship offered.

To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective worship at St Wilfrid's School is an educational activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain

It takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in Church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of Church
- Those from other Christian traditions
- Those from other faith backgrounds
- Those with no faith background

Where should Collective Worship take place?

- In the classrooms
- In the hall

- In church
- In the open prayer garden

### **Collective Worship – Why?**

Collective Worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to worship God:

- To reflect on personal belief
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To build a firm foundation for liturgy
- To develop community spirit
- To enrich the religious experience of children and staff
- To encourage a common ethos and shared values
- To enable and encourage a sense of belonging
- To respond and celebrate life

### **Collective Worship – Who?**

**Pupils** have the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship

**Staff** will plan and enable Collective Worship to take place each day

**Parents** will be invited to participate in some Collective Worship

**Headteacher's** role is to ensure that Collective worship is provided for each child every day.

**Governors** have the responsibility of drawing up a policy statement for Collective Worship after consultation with the Headteacher and staff.

### **Collective Worship – When?**

Legislation does not require Collective Worship to take place at a specific time. It need not occur at the beginning of the day, but rather at the most appropriate time for the school to ensure that it is a meaningful and prayerful opportunity for all participants.

### **Collective Worship – Where?**

*'Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them.'*

*(Matthew 18:20)*

As a rule, all acts of Collective worship should take place on the school premises. However the Governing Bodies of Aided Schools have discretion to organise Collective Worship elsewhere on special occasions. (Education Reform Act 1988)

### **Collective Worship – How?**

Collective Worship should provide a variety of experience which:

- Can be led by pupils, staff or visitors
- Can be offered for a small group of children (Rosary in October and May, Lunchtime Refection in Advent and Lent) Class, Key Stage or Whole School
- Uses a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers, responses, music, songs, dance, drama
- Provides a focus using candles, symbols, artefacts and lighting
- Respects the freedom of pupils and staff in the invitation to prayer and worship
- Ensures the possibility of conscious, active participation of all those present

- Sets an appropriate atmosphere with a sense of order and occasion
- Ensures the theme, focus, delivery, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range, backgrounds and abilities of the pupils

Collective Worship should be planned with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the Curriculum. It should also be planned with reference to the school's aims and policies and with the flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.

## **Opportunities provided for Collective Worship**

### **Foundation Stage (Nursery)**

Foundation stage (Nursery) staff do their own collective worship within their own setting, however, during the summer term, Nursery visit Reception for Collective Worship to help with transition.

### **Key Stage One and Reception**

Monday – In hall with all infants.

Tuesday - Within class setting.

Wednesday - Within class setting.

Thursday - Within class setting.

Friday-In Hall with all infants

### **Key Stage Two**

Monday – In hall with all juniors.

Tuesday - Within class setting.

Wednesday - Within class setting.

Thursday - Within class setting.

Friday-In Hall with all juniors.

*Parents have the right to withdraw their child from daily collective worship.*

### **Class Collective Worship (Stay and Pray)**

There will be a series of whole class collective worships throughout the year to which parents will be invited.

### **Whole School**

Throughout the year pupils participate in mass, parents and members of the community also attend church with the children Eg. Advent, Ash Wednesday, throughout Lent, etc.

### **Leavers**

A special Mass is celebrated at the end of the academic year, which recalls the children's journey through our school and points them towards their future lives in Secondary School.

### **Governors**

Our governors determine, support, monitor and review the school's approach to teaching and learning.

In particular they:

- Support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively.
- Ensure that the school buildings and premises are used optimally to support teaching and learning.
- Check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations.
- Seek to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good quality teaching.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self-review, processes, which include reports from subject leaders and the termly headteacher's report to governors.

## Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. Every effort is made to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- Holding parents' evenings to explain pupil progress.
- Sending information to parents, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school.
- Sending parents regular reports in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further.
- Explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework, and suggesting, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would therefore like parents to:

- Ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- Ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit;
- Do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- Inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour
- Promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;

## **Conclusion**

The experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual development. Such values will be explored, celebrated and reflected upon in Collective Worship in a manner that complements the way they are taught in the classroom and communicated through the ethos of the school.

We are aware of the need to monitor the school's Collective Worship policy, and to review it regularly, so that we can take account of new initiatives and research, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will therefore review this policy every two years, or earlier if necessary.

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| This policy was last updated on     | March 2025 |
| Discussed and agrees with Governors | March 2025 |
| Formal Review of Policy             | March 2027 |

Signed: *Mrs O'Sner* Headteacher

Date: March 2025



*Living the Gospel in the Spirit of Love and Respect*