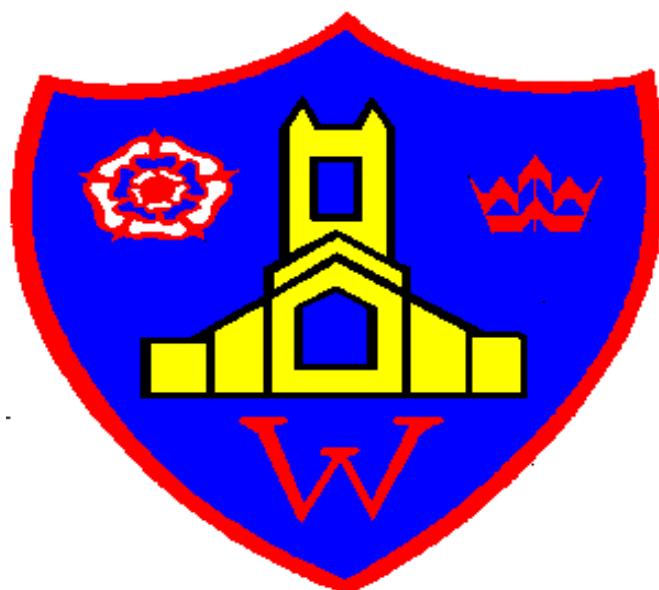


WALMSLEY C.E. SCHOOL

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Collective Worship Policy

Date Drafted	January 2011
Policy Written By	D Carr / J Brookes
Date Approved by Governors	April 2013
Date Reviewed	September 2021
Date of Next Review	September 2024
Responsible Committee	Policy Committee

Mission Statement

As a school we pledge to:

...be a happy school where pupils are encouraged and challenged to reach their full academic and social potential in a creative, friendly and safe Christian environment

...work as a partnership with pupils, their families, staff and the wider community to provide an environment of honesty, responsibility and integrity

...give ownership of the opportunities presented to the school family thus enabling them to reflect on their time at Walmsley with pride

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Governors and Staff at Walmsley are committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for all pupils and to apply all policies and strategies fairly to ensure that everyone in school is treated with respect and understanding and in compliance with all legislation and guidance.

1.2 The School's ethos as set by Governors and Staff is based upon the belief that pupils learn best in a safe and calm environment that is free from disruption and in which education is the primary focus; in applying a strategy for application of this policy this has been paramount. Good behaviour is the key to this ethos and the values of

- respecting each other,
- an educational learning environment
- knowing how actions may impact or affect another person

they permeate the whole school environment, not only in the playground, corridors, and classrooms but also beyond the school's premises/site.

1.3 This policy is compliant with guidance provided by the Department for Education, the Manchester Diocese and Bolton Council as the Local Education Authority.

1.4 The review dates of the Policy and Strategy are set out on the front cover of this document.

1.5 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Religious Education Policy and the Policy for Behaviour and Pastoral Care.

2.0 Collective Worship: Good Practice

2.1 At Walmsley CE School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Throughout this and the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement as stated above.

2.2 It is a time where we can come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, governors, clergy and other visitors are highly valued.

3.0 Christian Values

3.1 Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth. These are the values embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13 34-35

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

We also actively seek to encourage attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

4.0 Values Education

4.1 We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop spiritually, physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence, leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

5.0 Legal Requirements

5.1 We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole class, school or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw children either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head Teacher. Staff, when applying to work at the school, must recognise that they will be required to respect the values and curriculum we live by and teach.

6.0 Organisation...

6.1 We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday

Key Stage 1 Collective Worship in class or as Year Group

Key Stage 2 Collective Worship in class or as Year Group

Tuesday

Key Stage 1 Collective Worship in class or as Year Group

Key Stage 2 Collective Worship in class or as Year Group

Wednesday

Whole School Hymn Practice

Thursday

Whole school worship in church led by our vicar, which can include presentations.

Friday

Worship/Celebration Assembly led by the Senior Management Team and each class in turn.

6.2 In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed to school regularly to lead worship.

6.3 The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes with the exception of the Eucharist.

7.0 Planning, Content and Detail

7.1 The RE Coordinator produces a half-termly plan for Collective Worship, which includes the Christian themes to be developed that week and suggested content. The themes for Monday and Tuesday's Collective Worship reflect the RE theme of the week, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. This Worship takes place in classes and is led by class teachers.

7.2 Our children are encouraged to express what they have enjoyed, experienced or learnt in worship for that week. These responses are noted in class "RE Scrapbooks"

7.3 Friday's Worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins with the children singing a hymn or with a piece of appropriate music. The children lead the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The children then lead out as music is played.

During Friday's assembly we share thoughts and prayers/wishes from the Worship Box. We also celebrate children's achievements across both key stages with our Star Student and Resilient and Brilliant awards

7.4 Each class takes turn to lead us in reflection and prayer. This is normally linked to the worship theme of that particular week but there is room to adapt this if something arises which we would like to address.

7.5 Wednesday's Worship is Hymn Practice where hymns are practiced for the Church service that week. SMT or class teachers lead the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The children then lead out as music is played.

8.0 Prayer and Reflection

8.1 Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, our Walmsley School prayer, extempore prayers and prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed on the altar table.

8.2 At the beginning of lunchtime, Grace is said by the class teacher accompanied by the children. Each class has their own class prayer for the end of the school day. These prayers are up for all the children to read on display in the school hall.

9.0 Other Faiths

9.1 Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith, stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of each other's beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of curriculum requirements. Children of other faiths who attend school share their knowledge and their faith with us.

10.0 Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

10.1 Training is encouraged and available for those wishing to lead acts of worship. The School Council meet to discuss the worship that has taken place and bring their views and that of their peers to evaluate the effectiveness of the worship. Classes keep their own "RE Scrapbooks" to record reflections and comments about the Worship across school. An online resource folder on the school network is available for staff to save examples of powerpoints and prayers used in acts of Worship.

11.0 Visits and Visitors

11.1 As part of the curriculum Walmsley CE School ensures that appropriate 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. For example, a visit to a mosque, pupils of different religions explaining their faith.

11.2 Visitors to the school are **welcomed and encouraged** to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate, not to evangelise. Christ Church Walmsley is our most frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Leaver's services.

12.0 Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

12.1 Children may be withdrawn from RE lessons at the wish of their parents. The Head Teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

12.2 Clergy members are frequent visitors to school and the children see them as an integral part of school life. They lead confirmation lessons within school which leads to a large number of our Year 6 pupils being confirmed.

12.3 Parents and Governors join us in a number of services and events. There is an open invitation to join us during our Eucharistic Service on Thursday.

12.4 We participate in the Diocesan Leavers service held at Manchester Cathedral. We call upon Diocesan expertise and training to support us. The Bishop (Chair of the Board of Education) and the Director of Education are frequent visitors to our school.

13.0 Equality and Diversity

13.1 At Walmsley Primary School, we do not discriminate against anyone on grounds of their ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation or background. This is in line with the 1976 Race Relations Act and covers both direct and indirect discrimination. All pupils will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of RE. 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, local community, our town of Bolton and the wider world.