



Our Collective Worship

At Winmarleigh Church of England Primary School, we believe that collective worship is at the heart of our school life and an expression of our distinctive Christian vision. The Governors see it as an essential part of the development and education of all of our pupils. In this Church of England school, our collective worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. As a school, we aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils. The worship and prayer life of our school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and encourage reflection in the curriculum generally and at the end of each afternoon session as well as saying grace before lunch.

Key Beliefs

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to our worship. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian church. Whatever the approaches used, we expect that our pupils will be introduced to, and encouraged to explore, the following key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
 - The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year

Our Aims

The aims of Collective Worship in our school have been created using the 3 E's (*as outlined in the Guidelines for Collective Worship by Blackburn Diocese*).

1. **EXPLORE** - We encourage our children and our staff to explore:
 - a personal relationship with God.
 - the teachings, stories and fundamental beliefs of the Bible.
 - personal and corporate prayer.
 - the value of truth, love, goodness and respect and empathy for others regardless of gender, social, racial or cultural differences.
 - what worship means to them and to others.
 - what it means to put God at the heart of our school and our lives
2. **ENCOUNTER** - We trust that our children and our staff will encounter:

- the beauty, awe and wonder of our God and his creation.
- the nature of God as revealed in Jesus – through love, tolerance, forgiveness, honesty and respect.
- faith and peace through silence and reflection.
- a meaningful relationship with God.
- a faith which is alive in our world today.

3. **EXPERIENCE** - It is our aim that our children and staff experience:

- acts of worship that are enjoyable and that involve everyone, regardless of age, ability or personal level of faith.
- the feeling of belonging – to families, our school, our church the wider Christian community
- the enjoyment of participating in and leading worship
- church life and Christian practice, both locally and globally
- a sense of pride in our achievements and the joy of sharing with and in the successes of others.
- a sense of shared sadness and loss and the support and care that God offers us and that we can offer to each other.
- a sense of smallness in the face of the greatest of things.
- a sense of grandness in the face of the smallest of things.

Organisation and Delivery

In order to promote our pupil's learning and meet the need of different age groups our worship times vary in size and groupings. Currently this is as follows:

- Monday – whole school worship led by Reverend Gary
- Tuesday – Class worship led by class teachers
- Wednesday – Whole school worship led by the Headteacher
- Thursday – Worship led by the children – either in class or in the hall or teacher-led worship in class.
- Friday – whole school worship and celebration assembly led by the Headteacher

Autumn Term 2020 - Under the current circumstances (co-vid 19) our worship time will be held outdoors as often as possible.

Our times of worship are also led by a variety of invited guests. Our organised acts of worship are usually 20 minutes long. Worship takes place in Church at the beginning/end of each term. We also hold services in Church at Christmas and in July, when our Year 6 children leave us. These services are usually led by Reverend but with significant contribution from the staff, parents and children. Parents and governors are invited to join us at these times, at our Harvest Festival in October, at other special occasions throughout the year.

Our worship is also concerned with the celebration of our curriculum or of the achievements of our pupils both in school and outside of school, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt.

Our pupils are often involved in contributing to our worship through music, drama, song and poetry.

Content and Approaches:

Our collective worship content has been developed using the 'Putting the WOW into worship' guidelines and is organised over a 4-year programme.

It includes:

- Worships related to our Values (we are a values school)
- Themes from the Old Testament and New Testament, including - Creation, the Patriarchs, Prophets, Moses and the Exodus, the 10 Commandments, Psalms, prayer (including the Lord's Prayer), the life of Jesus (including miracles and parables), the apostles and St. Paul.
- related material from SEAL – our PSHE scheme. • events and occasions in the year of the Church.
- Saints' Days
- Important figures of religious, historical or global significance.
- Reference to other religions where appropriate and to the wider Christian Church.
- Material from 'Values for Life' and 'A Teacher's Dozen' A range of approaches are used to encourage the children to explore, encounter and experience, including:
 - songs and music from a variety of different cultures
 - actively involving the children (for example – they are invited to play music as children enter and leave the hall)
 - prayer (traditional, contemporary and simultaneous) and times of reflection and contemplation
 - readings and stories (from the Bible and other sources)
 - visual aids (including special clothing and artefacts)
 - discussion, questioning, speech and silence
 - procession and ritual action
 - dance, drama and role play

Consultation, Management, Recording and Reviews

Currently, the Collective Worship co-ordinator is Mrs Alexander, who is responsible for organising the themes and resources for the provision of worship. This is done in collaboration with Classteacher, Mrs Shaw and the Visions and Values team. Evaluation of collective worship is shared by the co-ordinator, those involved in planning/delivering worship and also by the children.

The collective worship plan is reviewed termly for effectiveness and content. Our Vision and Values Team is a group of children who meet together with the collective worship co-ordinator to discuss the effectiveness of our worship times and to suggest improvements. They contribute towards the planning of worship, ask the other children their opinions of our collective worship and evaluate the worship in school using an evaluation book.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (section 69(4) and schedule 20, section 5) the Collective Worship provided in our school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State. Winmarleigh is a Church of England Primary School and therefore the collective worship is required to reflect this. Daily collective worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, Key Stage groups, etc.

Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy. Although Collective Worship and RE naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately and Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocated for Religious Education.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in the school brochure: The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation.

This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

There will be occasions when the school assembles together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Children will not be withdrawn from acts of collective worship by the school for any extra tuition/music lessons unless absolutely necessary.

Policy Information

The headteacher and RE coordinator are responsible for the review and implementation of the policy, in consultation with Rev, Gary and/or the diocese.

It was last reviewed in: September 2020