

Wootton Wawen C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy



This policy was approved by the Full Governing Body and supersedes any previous Collective Worship Policy. The policy has been developed by the Staff, and in consultation with governors (including parent governors) using the SIAMS inspection materials for guidance. It will be reviewed every two years or earlier if needed.

APPROVAL BODY	Full Governing Body
APPROVAL DATE	December 2021
REVIEW DATE	December 2023
Head of School	
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS	

WOOTTON WAWEN C E PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Basic Principles

The Governing Body believes that in accordance with government statutory requirements there should be a daily Act of Worship.

The daily Act of Worship should be based on Christian principles and should seek to promote the children's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development. Spiritual, moral and social values will figure strongly in all Acts of Worship helping the children to see the relevance of these values to their life in school and to their life in the wider community.

Acts of Worship will draw mainly on the practices of the traditions of the Church of England but through Acts of Worship children should be encouraged to respect the values and traditions of all faiths.

The Act of Worship will include the main elements of prayer and praise, usually following a similar format of prayer, song(s), the main theme and a period of reflection, when children are able to think about their own responses to what they have heard.

Acts of Worship may include bible readings, story telling, drama, talks, poetry, films, PowerPoint presentations, dance and music.

Most Acts of Worship will involve the whole school in question and answer situations to encourage participation. Children may also take an active part within the contents of the gathering – to read, say the prayer, and participate in drama.

Acts of Worship should be conducted in a quiet and respectful atmosphere. As children enter there will either be a song to join in with or music to listen to.

Acts of Worship will form part of an assembly. There should be a clear distinction between the Act of Worship and the "domestic" items of any assembly. At Wootton Wawen C E Primary School this distinction is achieved by the lighting of a candle.

The school recognises that not all staff will feel comfortable leading an Act of Worship and that they may reserve the right not to do so.

Organisation

Assemblies will normally include all children in the school although there will be separate class assemblies on a Wednesday. Each class has a worship box.

Assemblies will be held in the hall except for the case of class assemblies and when the school visits the Church.

Among our school leaders is a Worship Team who support the Head of School and staff with the organisation and presentation of acts of worship.

“Guest speakers” such as our local may lead or take an active role in Acts of Worship. These may include representatives of charities and local services.

Parents are invited to celebration assembly each half term and children are encouraged to celebrate achievements outside of school at these assemblies.

The whole school attends St Peter’s Church to celebrate major festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The Leaver’s Service is also held at St. Peter’s Church.

Links with St. Peter’s Church

The Governing Body believes that as a Church of England school there should be strong links between the school and St Peter’s Church.

Regular Acts of Worship in the school are led by the local vicar, and Open the Book, a group comprising members of the Church congregation, who perform stories from the Bible.

A termly (two visits in the autumn term) Act of Worship takes place in St Peter’s Church with the children taking an active part in the readings and prayers.

The school encourages its families to get involved with local church activities and to take part in important family services. On occasions the school choir has performed in services or events at the church.

St Peter’s Church and the vicar are used as a resource for appropriate parts of the RE curriculum.

Topics/Themes for Collective Worship

Themes for assemblies will be wide ranging but will include:

- The Christian Year and Festivals
- Valuing ourselves as part of God’s creation and exploring our inner feelings, talents, self-esteem etc.
- The mystery of God’s creation - the natural world - harvest, seasons, the environment
- Stories from the Bible
- Stories from other religions
- The sacraments related to modern life
- SEAL
- Relationships with others and valuing other people like families
- Forgiveness
- Celebration of achievement
- Lives of important people (including those of other faiths)
- The school and its community
- The work of voluntary organisations and charities

The school uses the Values for Life Programme to explore a value each half term through assemblies but also through every day school life. The teachers award values certificates each week at celebration assembly to those children they feel have best displayed that value. Our key values over a two year cycle are:

- Trust
- Peace

- Forgiveness
- Truthfulness
- Courage
- Perseverance

Monitoring

The Executive Headteacher/Head of School and RE Co-ordinator are responsible for ensuring a daily Act of Collective Worship takes place and monitoring the effectiveness of these. This is achieved by:

- The Book of Reflection.
- Observation of assemblies
- Talking to pupils

The Right of Withdrawal

We respect the right of parents to request, in writing, that their children are withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship.