

Woodley C of E (Controlled) Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At Woodley C of E school, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

Woodley C of E School believes that each person is unique and accepted as a child of God and we value the gifts they bring.

We aim to develop a love of learning, placing equal importance upon academic, moral, social, physical and spiritual development.

We endeavour to offer an education which will prepare the children for the opportunities, experiences, responsibilities and challenges of adult life by forging strong links with our families and the wider community.

Collective worship is a time where we 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, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We identify the values of love, forgiveness, friendship, respect and tolerance of others, peace, co-operation, honesty and freedom. These values are 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 the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop 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.

(See Appendix 1 –Biblical roots for our School Values. In the Appendix.)

Legal Requirements

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 school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

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

Monday - Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Management Team.

Tuesday Key Stage /class worship. The themes are usually the same as For Monday, but content is differentiated appropriately. Class teachers lead these assemblies on a rota basis.

Wednesday/Thursday Minister's assembly . The local clergy take it in turns to lead this assembly in half termly slots. Once every half term the UKS2 classes lead a children's assembly.

Thursday KS2 Phase assembly. F & KS1 celebration assembly.

Friday - Whole school worship in song (Hymn Practise) and celebration assembly led by teaching staff on a rota basis.

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

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday and the phase assemblies are planned together following a theme decided by the Head, co-ordinator and approved by the Governor Collective Worship Committee. The Ministers collective worship reflects our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class.

Teachers say a prayer, usually written by a child, with their class at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, but in addition we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. During collective worship we recognise and honour festivals from other faiths and cultures as they arise or as they occur in the RE syllabus as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship.

A file is kept where evaluations will be recorded. An assembly is monitored termly and children are asked their views annually. The results of these findings help inform future planning.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, we ensure 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. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St John's Church is a valuable resource, with the Junior school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest and Christmas Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- There is a Collective Worship committee of Governors. The R.E. coordinator and CWC liaise to discuss various aspects of Collective Worship and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a Collective Worship

Date: November 2013

Review Date: November 2016