



Wath C of E Primary School Worship Policy 2022/23

Philosophy

Worship is an important part of the school week as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Wath C of E Primary school we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Wath C of E Primary School that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the PHSE scheme of work
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer, these might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide children with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for children in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship is either held near the beginning of the day so that it sets the tone for the day or at the end so that the children leave reflecting on its message.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher and RE Coordinator who after consultation with the governing body will carry out the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular I/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Wath C of E Primary school take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Headteacher and governors may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silences and reflection etc

Rights of Withdrawal

At Wath C of E Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher/Worship Co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week is planned for linked to five Christian Values we focus on in school – forgiveness, peace, love, hope and joy. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. There is strong Christian focus whilst celebrating world events and people from different faiths and cultures.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. Children will give their views to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator concerning acts of worship through the worship committee. The RE Coordinator and RE Governor meet on a termly basis to discuss the evaluations made by the worship committee. This is then fed back to the senior leadership team and their adapted plans are presented to governors.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept at the front of hall next to the display designed by the worship committee.

Date of next review: September 2023

Date.....

Signed..... [Chair of Governors]