

Wath C of E Primary School
Collective Worship policy 2023/24

Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the governing body. Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

At Wath C of E Primary school we are committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community, sharing and belonging, promoting and reinforcing a common ethos and shared values and expressing our school's Christian vision.

To ensure an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

Collective Worship is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We believe that this can be achieved by encouraging pupils to be creative, questioning and imaginative (within a Christian framework) and also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an opportunity to explore the Christian faith (and a relationship with God) in a way that enhances their lives both educationally and spiritually.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.

- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and have time to consider, reflect upon and respond to aspects of human experience.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Aims and objectives:

Collective Worship:

- Allows children to come together as a community to explore and reflect on the school's Christian vision which has its foundations in our shared values of love, hope, joy, peace and forgiveness.
- Enables children and adults to appreciate that Christians worship and demonstrate their faith in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, including the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Offers the opportunity and creates an atmosphere for pupils and adults, if they wish, to express praise and thanks to God and deepen and widen their experience through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection and allow spiritual growth.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind, reflect on their own beliefs and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, whilst also developing a respect for and an understanding of the personal values and beliefs of others.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering and exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the character of God and the Christian belief in the trinity.
- Enables pupils and adults to ask big questions of meaning and purpose (who we are and why we do what we do), fostering an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- Provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather together and support one another as a community in times of joy and celebration but also in times of challenge, fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion and affirming our Christian values within the school community.

- Allows opportunities for the school community to meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the start and end of the academic year will also be marked by acts of Collective Worship. Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities will help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life.

Structure and Organisation of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship takes the form of a welcome / call to worship followed by a story (this may be a Bible story) or a focused theme that the group are encouraged and guided to reflect on through discussion, reflection, prayer or music. Links are made from the story or theme with our Christian values and vision. It will be something that pupils and adults may want to share and discuss with others in school, in the community and at home. Weekly assemblies are also planned and delivered which focus on our school behaviours with opportunities to reflect on and make links with our Christian values and vision.

School worship:

- Takes place daily (in Key Stages or in class). 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.
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, is open to the Governing Body and parents can be invited.
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school hall or in classroom (for Class Worship)
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.
- Includes acts of praise and worship in songs, hymns, readings, prayers and poems.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, story or focused theme.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

There are also opportunities for pupils to engage by participating in, preparing for and evaluating Collective Worship. This may be through saying prayers, leading call and response, helping in practical ways, acting out stories or sharing creative pieces from Worship Club.

Content of Collective Worship:

The content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.
- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, bread and wine and candles.
- Use simple call and responses
- Celebrate Eucharist (as appropriate)

A display at the front of the hall provides a focal point for Collective Worship along with a candle which is lit at the beginning of Collective Worship with a simple call and response – “God is here. God is with us!” Children are invited to lead the call and response.

A class prayer is said each day accompanied by the lighting of a candle either at the beginning or end of the day and / or at lunch time.

Staff are also encouraged to use prayer throughout the day to respond to and reflect on class experiences and learning.

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.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher and RE / Worship 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 1/94 which states that worship should be of a ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

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

- Collective worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.
- It allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.
- It aims to encourage pupils to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

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 Coordinator 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 does not 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.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. Members of the Worship Club team will give their views to the Collective Worship Co-ordinator concerning acts of worship. The RE / Worship Coordinator and RE Governor meet on a termly basis to discuss the evaluations made by the worship team.

This is then fed back to the senior leadership team and their adapted plans are presented to governors.

Date of next review: September 2024

Date..... Signed..... [Chair of Governors]

Our Christian Values:

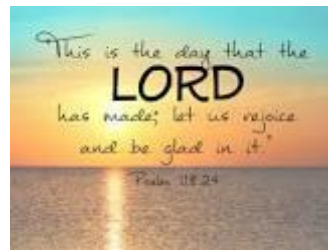
LOVE: 1 John 4:7

Let us love one another, for love comes from God.



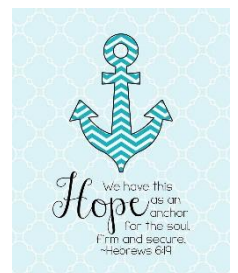
JOY: Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.



HOPE: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with peace and joy.



"Jesus gives us hope because He keeps us company, has a vision and knows the way we should go."

— [Max Lucado](#)

PEACE: John 14: 27



Jesus said: "My peace I give to you".

FORGIVENESS: Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you

