

Wilden V. A. Primary School

A Church of England School



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Collective Worship Policy – September 2019

The mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

Matthew: 13, v 32

In partnership with parents, governors, St Nicholas Church and community, we strive to ensure all children are embraced and nurtured. Our creative curriculum teaches our children to be generous, loving, resilient, inquisitive and courageous; enabling them to flourish as they journey through God's ever changing garden of life.

'To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God'.

William Temple (1881 – 1944)

Rationale

At Wilden VA Primary School we believe that Collective Worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation, values and character of the school. It is central to the life of the school and in accordance with the school's Trust Deed. It should promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The Governing Body understands its legal responsibilities and upholds the Christian foundation of the school. This foundation is made clear to parents when they visit the school, at induction evenings and introductory meetings, that the school is a Church of England school and as such, Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England.

The responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to all staff on their appointment.

Worship in a Church School

When asked "What is the mission of a church school?" the late Lord Runcie, when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, replied "It is, and must be, because that engagement with children and young people in schools will enable the Church to:



- Nourish those of the faith;
- Encourage those of other faiths;
- Challenge those who have no faith.”

We recognise that the school reflects the local community and may consist of pupils and staff from a variety of cultural, faith and non-faith backgrounds. Church schools were originally established to provide education for children in the community with being a Christian or Anglican not a requirement for admittance to the school. Those leading worship are aware that the children and staff may be Christian, of other faiths and of no faith.

Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools must fulfill two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- To ensure a daily Act of Worship for all pupils
- To ensure that Collective Worship is in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

A Daily Act of Worship for all Pupils

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 states:

‘The arrangements for the required Collective Worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.’

An act of Worship will take place daily for all pupils.

Worship can take place in church, the school hall, a classroom or any suitable place.

The Right of Withdrawal

The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents are advised of this right in the School Prospectus which is published on the school website.

We consider taking part in worship to be an integral and vital part of the school day and would hope to discourage parents from withdrawing their child/children.

The Rights of Teachers

Teachers and Head Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship under the 1944 Education Act.

However, on appointment, staff are asked to respect the foundation and the Christian Character of the school and reminded that worship underpins that foundation.

Collective Worship at Wilden VA Primary School

Collective Worship at Wilden VA Primary School will introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

Assembly is not Collective Worship' although an assembly might include worship. We aim to bring the school together for Collective Worship although individual classes may sometimes hold their own acts of worship.

Collective Worship, takes place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require. Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building but at least once a term, an Act of Worship will be held at St Nicholas's Church in Wilden. Opportunities will also be sourced to include St. Deny's Church in Colmworth to reflect the need to include all our catchment community in worship. We also aim to use our outdoor space to hold acts of Worship.

Children will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways with each class leading a Collective Worship at least once a year. During Collective Worship children will be asked join in through role play, asking and answering questions as well as leading prayers. The use of music and hymns is also used as a powerful tool in creating a peaceful and joyful atmosphere.

There is room for spontaneity and also reflection. We recognise the need to reflect and teach children the importance of prayer. A candle is lit during reflection time to help children to focus. Displays in the worship space celebrate and remind children of the themes we have been following.

Our Collective Worship follows our monthly values however they may be seasonal adaptations or the exploration of particular religious practices. When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. The Collective Worship plans from the Diocese are used where possible but these are adapted and used alongside other material. Training on Collective Worship is provided by the Diocese of St Albans and the lead teacher will attend sessions.

The incumbent will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, ideally once a week. In their absence local representatives from the church will be invited into school to lead Collective Worship. Ministers from other Christian denominations will be encouraged to take Collective Worship.

From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.

Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.

Aims of Collective Worship at Wilden VA Primary School

To ensure that our worship

- is inspiring and transformational
- informs pupil attitudes and behaviour
- enables pupils to explore their own beliefs
- encourages participation and involvement in worship of a Christian nature
- helps to develop and support our Christian vision and values
- contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- provides opportunities for pupils, staff, parents and governors to engage with distinctively Christian teaching in particular the school's Anglican heritage

- provide pupils with opportunities to gain an understanding of Eucharistic worship and liturgy
- helps pupils understand the nature of prayer and reflection and the role that prayer has in an individual's life
- celebrate Worship together through the power of hymns
- help pupils develop an understanding of Christian concepts and in particular the concept of the Trinity
- contributes to pupils' understanding of the significant role of the Bible in the Christian worship
- promotes respect and understanding of all members of society regardless of any differences.
- provides children with an understanding of the importance of prayer and worship in the world-wide Christian tradition

Outcomes

Each child should:

- develop concern, respect and understanding of others
- reflect on their own moral values
- reflect on their own strengths and weaknesses
- share in celebrations of successes and events

Monitoring and Review

The responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the governing body.

Collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by staff, pupils and members of the governing body.

This policy has been ratified and agreed with the governing body.

Signed Date (Head Teacher)

Signed Date (Governor)