COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

At Willaston Church of England Primary School we believe that Collective Worship plays an essential integral part in the life of our school. It makes an invaluable, embedded contribution to the ethos and values of the school and to its distinctive Christian character.

Vision

We are committed to quality teaching and learning in a positive and compassionate Christian environment, where everyone is valued as an individual.

We expect everyone to, 'Treat others as you want them to treat you.' (Matthew 7:12).

We have high expectations of all, and strive to provide a safe, challenging and stimulating environment where everyone can flourish spiritually.

Values

Respect – through our understanding of the Bible and teachings of Jesus, we follow his example and demonstrate respect in our relationships with the whole school community.

Compassion – understanding how Jesus showed compassion and charity to others, no matter who they were, and endeavouring to do the same.

Creation – learning about God's creation and showing reverence and gratitude for being custodians of our planet and everything on it.

Perseverance – knowing that God is by our side when we face challenges and adversity, giving us faith and determination.

Service – having Jesus as our role model and using our knowledge and understanding to help others in our local community and beyond.

Legal Requirements

The arrangements for Collective Worship are in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, section 70 and schedule 20 as summarised below:

- Arrangements for Collective Worship are the responsibility of the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility;
- Acts of Worship must adhere to 'the faith and practice of the Church of England' in accordance with the original foundation;
- An act of Collective Worship must be provided for all pupils every day. This can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping;
- All parents must be advised of their right to withdraw their child from the act of Worship. Staff also have the right to withdraw from worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

The central aims of Collective Worship at Willaston CE Primary School are to:

- Encourage pupils to learn more about the Christian faith and to become familiar with a variety of worship in the Anglican tradition, according to their developmental stage;
- Promote a sense of occasion allowing everyone to celebrate the whole life of the school in the presence of God and reflect upon its common ethos and Christian values;
- Provide opportunities to engage and address God directly;
- Make an effective contribution to every child's search for meaning and their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Provide an atmosphere for personal reflection, through experiences of stillness, peace, awe, mystery, reverence and belonging;
- Allow pupils to respond individually and to respect their personal integrity, beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes;
- Give children opportunities to participate in acts of Worship to promote self-confidence and self-esteem;
- Nurture a concern for the wider world through considering the needs of others and foster charitable works;
- To provide opportunities for children to explore Collective Worship when learning outside the classroom.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- Exploration of a theme or focus
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Pupil participation
- Cultural understanding

The pattern of worship each week is as follows:-

Monday
Whole school Collective Worship led by a member of SLT.

Tuesday
A class whole school Collective Worship focusing on the half termly school value incorporating Bible stories, reflection and celebration. Led by Reverend Gordon.

Wednesday
Whole school singing worship led by class teacher or school governor.

Thursday
Collective Worship in classrooms with links to No Outsiders and Social Action Project.

Friday
Whole school Special Praise Worship led by a member of SLT.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis. Worship often includes a visit from ministers of local Churches, Bromborough Gospel Hall, Methodist Church, Open the Book and local charities. Worship follows a half-termly rolling programme based on the school values of respect, compassion, creation, perseverance and service. Each Collective Worship session offers time to pause for thought and reflection. It includes an opportunity to worship God either in a time of reflection or in prayer. Friday worship provides an opportunity for the whole school to meet and celebrate children's work and achievements and the 'good deeds' they have carried out.

We have strong links with Christ Church, Willaston and we regularly visit Church as part of worship or our RE lessons. We also enjoy celebrating Christian festivals throughout the year in school and at Church.

Each classroom has a designated area in which children are able to reflect and pray.

A prayer basket is located in the hall and provides opportunities for children to contribute to prayer.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The whole school ethos and programme of Collective Worship enriches spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship provides opportunities for the whole school community to:

- gain a sense of self-knowledge, vision or inspiration; a sense of awe and wonder of God's creation;
- appreciate the values and attitudes upheld by the local and wider community within the British context;
- be encouraged to keep/maintain/develop a quest for truth and meaning;
- observe and encounter varieties of expressions of belief and commitment.

Each class also has the opportunity to work on a Social Action Project that benefits either our school or wider community, giving children the opportunity to find their voice and use it to advocate for change.

We regularly support local charities such as the local foodbank, Claire House Hospice and Santa for a Senior. We regularly fundraise for national charities and events such as Children in Need, Comic Relief and Christian Aid.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

By law (Education Act 1988) parents/carers may withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish. Here at Willaston our is to not force religion onto children. It is therefore hoped that parents would not feel the need to withdraw their child/children from Collective Worship. However, if such an issue arises, the school will respect the decision of the family and withdraw the child from Worship. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal, but we would strongly encourage any parent/carer who wishes to do so to discuss their request with the Headteacher.

Record Keeping

We keep records of our acts of Worship in our Collective Worship Book and by using our social media platforms.

Review

Collective Worship is monitored regularly by pupil voice, staff and Governors. The programme of Collective Worship is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher, Governors and staff and adjustments are made as necessary.

Statement

This policy was formulated by Lucy Bell: May 2024

Approved by Governors May 2024



Signed Chair of Governors