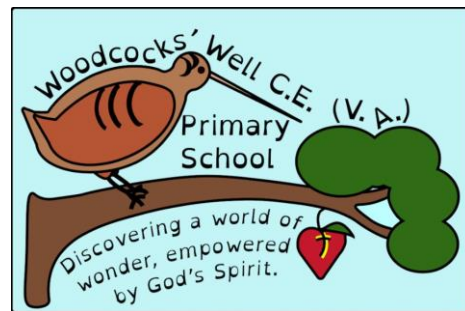


# Collective Worship Policy

- Amendments to policy: October 2024
- Policy effective from: September 2019
- Review date: September 2025
- Full Governing Body



## Our School's Vision Statement

**“Discovering a world of wonder, empowered by God’s Spirit.”**

So our children can “live life in all its fulness” (John10:10), we give them experiences to develop confidence, independence, resilience, passion and aspirations. By developing their character and understanding of God at work in the world, children will be able to make reflective, sound judgements; having a positive impact on our wider community and society by valuing all God’s children.

## Our School Values

As Julian saw God’s love, creativity and wonder in the hazelnut, we recognise the ‘fruit of the spirit’ as God in ourselves and others.

To foster a **love** for ourselves and others and develop a love for learning

To be **faithful** to God, others and ourselves and be excited to grow our minds and mature in fruitful character.

To grow **self-control** and be **patient** when working alone or together.

To find **joy** in real-life experiences and learning opportunities

To encourage **peace** in others and recognise it within ourselves

To show **gentleness** towards others and approach other cultures and world views with respect and **kindness**

To display **goodness** to all those around us, regardless of differences, creating an environment in which we can all grow healthily, happily and safely.

## Introduction

Distinctively Christian in character, Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School is central to the life of the school. It is an affirmation and celebration of our vision, values and ethos where the Trinity lies at its focus. Securely based on the Bible and teaching of Jesus, Collective Worship develops an understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practise through appropriate biblical and liturgical content that pupils learn and experience, so they can reflect upon the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican worship and prayer. Collective Worship is an entitlement to all, is valued and holds high status in our school family. We serve to build understanding, respect and empathy in pupils, preparing them for life in the wider world.

## **Providing an inclusive environment conducive to worship**

Collective Worship provides a space to develop a reflective understanding of 'self', 'others' and 'God'; it is central to our school community and is important for everyone, not just children; staff participate and model positive behaviour and parents and friends are invited to join throughout the year.

Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School is inclusive; we respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God - mirroring the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. *"Every teacher is a teacher of every child including those with SEN" (Code of Practise January 2015)* Collective Worship is fully inclusive of all children ensuring the utmost opportunities are given for each child to nurture their special gifts, given their chance to shine, and acquire new skills to grow in our modern world. It is inclusive for all children, including those with SEND and EAL who are all considered in our provision.

We take into account the developmental ages of our children so our worship is educational and inclusive in nature. With a collection of differences, ages and backgrounds, we aim to serve our entire community and foster a sense of community and belonging. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths and those without faith are welcome here.

Worship and prayer demarcate the day providing time for all to pause, reflect and the opportunity to deepen spiritually. We provide an act of Collective Worship for all children daily for approx. 20 minutes and we encourage participation and response, active involvement whether that is in planning and presenting worship, joining in with worship, responding or purely listening. On this we also recognise that worship is an attitude of the heart therefore participation in Collective Worship is invitational.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from Collective Worship however we urge parents to discuss this with the Headteacher as we always intend to make worship inclusive, meaningful and sensitive to each and everyone's needs.

## **Planning and Organisation**

Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School is well organised and planned to enrich the life of school and develop shared values and purpose. The Collective Worship leader plans key content through one of our school values each term. We use the Roots and Fruits resource to support planning. This is reinforced by all staff who lead worship throughout each term. Our Pupils lead worship each half term. Celebration Assemblies are held weekly and Parents are invited join us. Parents are also invited to special services throughout the year.

## **The typical weekly format of Collective Worship is as follows:**

Monday - Picture News led by the Ethos Team and supported with the Headteacher or a member of the teaching staff.

Tuesday - Hymns led by a member of the teaching staff.

Wednesday - Roots and Fruits - bringing worship to school led by Pastor Matt or a member of the teaching staff.

Thursday - Stories from the Bible - bringing worship to school led by Rector Philip or a member of the teaching staff.

Friday - Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher or a member of the teaching staff.

Providing a most effective Collective Worship is a team effort at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School and pupils take on various roles to organise and execute daily collective worship. Children are encouraged to play an active role in planning, preparation, participation, presentation and in responding to collective worship.

### **Visitors**

Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School welcomes many visitors. We have established close links with the church and community and through regular dialogue, we work together to enhance the planning and implementation of collective worship. Visitors from local churches, topical leaders and visitors of other faiths are regularly invited in to lead an act of worship or an assembly. This opens up an understanding beyond ourselves and the school community, and supports the open valuing of others.

Making the experience of Collective Worship both meaningful and enjoyable for all, we aim to challenge and motivate pupils.

### **Aims of Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School**

- Engage children through using a combination of traditional and current content - both developing an appreciation of tradition and ensuring relevance to life today.
- Develop an understanding of the Christian faith and its traditions.
- Provide an opportunity to learn and reflect and explore faith in their lives, in the lives of the community in which we live and within the wider world.
- To consider moral issues and develop a sense of social responsibility towards fairness and equality.
- Explore Christian values and what these mean within our own lives and within the lives of others.
- Enable pupils to understand the benefits that exist in a society where diversity and difference is celebrated.
- To serve our community, building understanding, respect and empathy and preparing pupils for life.
- Develop an understanding of shared values and beliefs across cultures and faiths.
- Celebrate pupils talents and achievements, so everyone feels valued.
- Educate about the lives of contemporary people and those of the past and encourage pupils to reflect upon what we can learn from them.

We do this by:

- Observing the Anglican year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ascension
- Using quality resources to engage pupils and develop a deeper understanding.

- Using varying styles and forms of expression - music, dance, drama, art, guided storytelling, videos etc
- Exploring people, issues and/or experiences that are relevant to pupils and their lives and in which children can relate to and/or grow from.
- Using the bible as a source for inspiration and learning. - Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting upon these.
- Valuing prayer in the development of a personal relationship with God.
- Valuing silence and stillness within a Christian context of worship.
- Using hymns as a method of reverence and worship.
- Conducting worship indoors as well as taking advantage of our beautiful outdoor environment.
- Providing opportunities to reflect upon Collective Worship.

### **Social, moral, spiritual and cultural learning and development (SMSC)**

SMSC steers Collective Worship at Woodcocks' Well CE (VA) Primary School, further creating a valuable educational experience that extends worship and curriculum work. Through the planning of Collective Worship themes, children ponder moral questions, learn that it is exciting to be part of a bigger and diverse society and the importance of this towards social cohesion. Worship has the ability to nurture the soul and offer special opportunities for spiritual development. It can instil awe and wonder and appreciation of our world, teach pupils to let go of distractions and be still amongst a larger group, and furthermore help children to understand prayers as spiritual insight. We encourage pupils to participate in Collective Worship with open hearts and minds.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Impact of Collective Worship**

It is the responsibility of the Collective Worship Coordinator to monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship and actions will inform whole school strategic development plan. The Collective Worship Coordinator will gain shared experiences of Collective Worship (pupil interviews, questionnaires and responses) which will support in evaluating Collective Worship in school.

Reflection book - a record of values in action - This records children and parent/ visitor reflections, comments, photos and emails. Our Ethos group support in evaluating Collective Worship by seeking verbal or written reflections once worship has closed. They have also conducted pupil interviews.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing body to ensure this policy is implemented. The Governing Body frequently reflect upon Collective Worship and how it may be improved within Foundation Governor meetings. The Collective Worship lead attends appropriate meetings to keep governors up to date with the status and progress of Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship Coordinator encourages shared good practise in collective worship. It is their responsibility to inform staff about DBE courses towards the improvement of collective worship. They will disseminate information or resources for the effective implementation of collective worship.

It is the shared responsibility of any member of staff leading Collective Worship to seek support and/or CPD to develop their practise if they feel the need to do so.