

Wilberfoss C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Introduction

As a Church school we see Collective worship as an integral part of the educational provision of the school and something that underpins all aspects of school life.

Pupils have both the need and a right to develop spiritually, morally and culturally as well as mentally, physically and socially. It is entitlement for all pupils (except for children of parents and carers who exercise the right of withdrawal). The school aims through worship to meet the legal requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

The Vision and Values of the school and its ethos will be reflected and strengthened through the acts of collective worship. Recognising its historic foundation, the school will reflect some of the features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship.

Aims

- To honour God's presence in the school community, to offer praise.
- To strengthen and build upon the feeling of belonging together, of being a family and of each individual's worth.
- To enrich people's lives together, growing in care and a sense of responsibility.
- To spend a special time together, showing reverence, and developing a sense of wonder for the world in which we live.

Guidelines

Collective Worship must be approached in a planned and professional way so that it can be a meaningful and worthwhile aspect of school life. A series of themes should be used to ensure continuity and relevance, and to provide coherence. The RE Leader and Headteacher provides a list of themes to all staff and visitors.

Collective Worship takes part in a variety of groupings such as the whole school, in class groups or key stages but not specific religious groups. When planning the session, regard must be taken of the pupils' age, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Collective Worship is part of the educational provision of the school and should underpin all aspects of school life allowing a space in time:

- i) for reflection and stillness in the midst of a busy school life
- ii) facilitating the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing
- iii) teaching pupils to be members of large and small gatherings.
- iv) To create an atmosphere, which is conducive to worship, and that should be fostered.

To encourage this collective act of worship, the leader should provide opportunities to respond, reflect and revere. To enable this we try to follow the same process through all Collective Worship points to allow children to become used to the rhythm, and be able to fully take part.

Collective Worship format

Welcome

We all gather together to play a part in our collective worship community. One of our Year 6 children welcomes everyone with a prayer and lights the candle. The whole community then respond to this by singing 'Father we are here, Jesus we are here, Spirit we are here, We are here for you.'

Welcoming each other into the space sets the tone for the rest of the session.



Learning/Engaging

This element of Collective Worship is the time when new possibilities or different perspectives are opened up. This can take the form of drama, visual images, poetry, children acting or videos that are linked to Biblical stories or other texts.



Reflecting

The reflection element of Collective Worship encourages everyone to consider how the Bible story or similar stimulus has resonated with, or challenged them. Questioning is often a useful way of teasing out children's thoughts and understanding, with often periods of silence.



Responding/Sending

The final element of our worship provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present to step out and play their part in making a difference in the world. It is within this that we also pray to offer thankfulness, ask for strength etc., including the use of our school prayer.

Following Collective Worship we have children who provide response forms to record their own reflections about Collective Worship, what challenged them and what they may wish to act on from what they have heard. These are collated and checked regularly and acted upon where possible.

Our School Prayer

God Our Father,
Thank you for your love and care.
Thank you for the friendships we share.

Guide us to persevere and achieve great things.
Believe in ourselves through all life brings.

Amen.

Organisation

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship led by HT or SLT. Often the introduction to a theme, value or thread that runs through a week or a half term.
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by a member of staff (this includes Picture News).
Wednesday	Whole School Worship led by Rev Simon Pritchard/ Sung Worship led by Claire Rowlinson
Thursday	Class Collective Worship. In KS2 this is mainly led by pupils.
Friday	Whole School Celebration Worship

All children in KS2 all have the opportunity to lead Class Worship over the year. Children in KS2 volunteer to be part of the Collective Worship Crew. These children take an active part in all whole school Collective Worship – reading stories, leading prayers, saying the gathering prayer etc. They also led prayers in Church Services.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Christian values of Friendship, Perseverance and Thankfulness are allocated to each term, with other values of Service, Forgiveness and Truthfulness running alongside this in the second half term. Shared planning resources are located in a central place so that teachers can work together to plan. These are collated by the RE Leader but also within the Collective Worship files just outside the hall. Reverend Simon visits regularly and completes monitoring forms/visit forms with feedback for the staff and school, as well as monitoring by HT and SLT.

Community Links

At Wilberfoss we place very high value on maintaining links with our local church, St John the Baptist and our local priest, Reverend Simon. Reverend Simon hosts at least biweekly Collective Worship in school and we visit church to celebrate many events, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers Service.

Resources

- - Selection of assembly books, artefacts, posters and music.
- - Websites and multimedia
- - Worship Works and Roots and Fruits
- - Out of the Box – class collective worship
- - Jack in the Box – EYFS collective worship
- - Picture News

Right to withdraw

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of Collective Worship.

Parents wishing to exercise this right should speak to the Headteacher. The school will ensure that pupils who are withdrawn are supervised appropriately.