

Collective Worship Policy

Wateringbury CE Primary School

Policy reviewed: April 2018
Next review date: April 2019
Committee responsible: Headteacher/Full Governing Body

Signed: _____



Date: _____

21/5/18

(Chair of Governors)

Wateringbury Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Wateringbury CE Primary School is proud to be part of the Christian tradition and the Rochester Diocese and we take our faith responsibilities seriously. We fully uphold the diocesan statement about the place that worship holds in a faith school:

'Daily worship is at the heart of the life of a Church School. It offers regular opportunities for the school community to worship God, to share its beliefs and to reinforce its Christian values.' *Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, Collective Worship statement*

The daily act of Collective Worship at Wateringbury Church of England Primary School plays a central role in school life. It strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school and reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and it recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year. Collective worship offers staff and children a daily reaffirmation of our values and ethos. It provides important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through Collective Worship, we make a significant contribution to the development of those present. We want all our children to grow religiously and spiritually; to gain a sense of their own culture and other cultures; to develop into moral and compassionate human beings. Collective Worship provides a valuable forum to do this.

All teaching staff and children are expected to attend Collective Worship regularly.

Aims

- To worship God
- To learn about the life of Jesus and explore how his beliefs and actions are relevant to us today and provide a model for our own actions and decisions
- To explore the Trinity to enable a deeper understanding of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and provide opportunities for spiritual development and reflection
- To nurture collective fellowship by bringing pupils together to explore and celebrate the shared values of the school and community
- To foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world
- To reflect on matters of life, choices and decision and to pose the big questions which are of eternal concern to human beings
- To enable children to gain new insights about themselves and others
- To foster empathy for others

Statutory Requirements

- An act of Collective Worship takes place daily for all pupils
- The act of Collective Worship must be of Christian character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief

- The daily act of Collective Worship should ordinarily take place on school premises, but occasionally the act of Collective Worship may take place elsewhere
- The act of Collective Worship may be organised for separate groups of pupils at any time during the school day – these groups may be any group in which children are taught, but not ‘religious’ groups
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from the act of Collective Worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

- We use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- We observe the cycle of the Church’s Year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints’ Days
- We learn and say a variety of Christian prayers
- We use simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to students’ ages
- We sing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- We experience Christian symbolism in worship and reflect on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, candles
- We use prayer, silence and reflection
- We celebrate the Eucharist.

Opening and closing music

Music plays an important role in Worship at Wateringbury. Pupil musicians often play to open Worship; this is an important way to develop an interest in music and musicianship, to celebrate diverse talents and to encourage children to settle in the hall quietly and respectfully. It also helps their listening skills and broadens their musical experience. Recorded music is also used to illuminate a particular theme or mood for Worship and to expose children to a wide variety of musical styles and cultures.

Monday, 10:20-10:35 Led by the Headteacher in the Main Hall. We follow the Diocesan Collective Worship plans. Worship includes music, a story (usually Biblical) with a link to our own lives, time for questions, contributions and reflection, a song or hymn and a closing prayer (often the sung Lord’s Prayer).

Tuesday, 10:20-10:35 Led by the Deputy Headteacher. This follows a similar pattern to Monday’s worship, but is based on one of our Christian Values (love, peace, forgiveness, wisdom, justice, compassion) and the theme runs for the term. We follow the Jumping Fish Values For Life resource by the Diocese of Gloucester.

Wednesday, 10:20-10:35 Senior Leaders take this in turn and follow the Diocesan Collective Worship plans, following on from Monday’s Worship.

Thursday, 10:20-10:35 Reserved for visitors (Family Trust, High Hopes, Christian visitors and charities) or Singing Worship. Singing Worship is led by our Headteacher. The hymns are chosen to fit with our term’s Christian Value. Sung prayers are also included.

Friday, 10:20-10:35 This weekly assembly celebrates all the outstanding learning and achievements that have taken place. Certificates and house points are awarded. We open with a celebration song and close with a sung or spoken prayer.

It is important that class teachers are able to follow up issues and themes raised during Collective Worship with their own class. Teachers are also involved in school worship for continuity in developing worship themes across periods of time.

Leading Lights

Year 5 and 6 pupils have joined our Leading Lights programme from October 2015. This is facilitated by our RE coordinator, Sarah Goodwin. The children help during Worship in the following ways:

- set up the Hall
- greet classes as they arrive
- lead the call to worship
- light the candle
- close with prayers
- lead one worship each term on the term's value
- lead KS1 worship regularly.

Parents' right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship

The absence of a pupil from school on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his parent belongs does not infringe the school attendance provisions of the Education Act 1988. A pupil may be withdrawn by his parent, after a request in writing, from Worship in any kind of school, in which case the pupil can either remain on the school premises or be sent to school so as to arrive when the act of Worship is over.