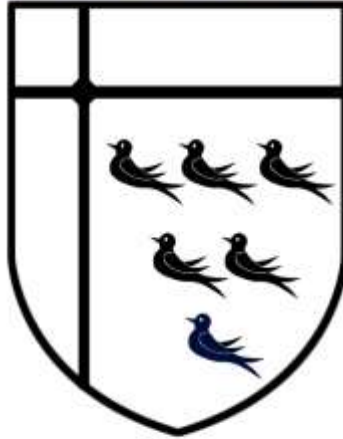


St Wilfrid's
Church of England Primary School



**Growing Success
Rooted in Faith**

St Wilfrid's Collective Worship Policy

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

POLICY FOR WORSHIP

Church of England schools are communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. At St Wilfrid's, we believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all.

Our Vision:

'All pupils will grow in our school values, supported by staff, governors and the wider community. Rooted in God's love we will deliver a broad education of the highest quality, enabling all pupils to succeed.'

'Shine as a light in the world' Matthew 5:16

In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship usually takes place in the morning, but it can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in St Wilfrid's aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the

local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.

- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

From these guiding principles we aim for our collective worship to:

1. contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. be inclusive in nature
3. be Educational as set out in the Educational Act 1996

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths and beliefs. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

Educational

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the vision and value of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

Aims for Collective Worship: Developing Christian beliefs through Collective Worship

The Collective Worship supports the aims of a church school as described by the late Lord Runcie when he was Archbishop of Canterbury

Collective Worship should be to:

- Nourish those of the Christian faith
- Encourage those of other faiths
- Challenge those who have no faith

- God as creator
To develop a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the environment, the world and its people
- Jesus
To learn more about the life and teachings of Christ and His unique character as 'God made man'
- The Holy Spirit
To learn about individuals and organisations who have acknowledged the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- The Bible
Through listening to stories from the Bible, learn more about the Christian way of life, how God can work through people and how their behaviour towards others can demonstrate his love.
- Prayer
To know that prayer is to communicate with God, both to speak and to listen.

Structure of Worship

Our collective worship follows the pattern, 'The Shape of Collective Worship'

Gathering

- A distinctive atmosphere and a clearly visible focus point are important. There should be a feeling of expectation as people gather for worship. We gather together and greet each other. We all come to play a part in this community. We are preparing to meet with God.
- Worship will be led by clergy, staff and invited visitors (see Appendix 1). All Staff will attend Monday and Friday worship and for the others a combination of teachers and TAs will provide the support for the other worship times.
- The children and adults will gather quietly and be welcomed by the agreed call and response. (God is Good, All the time; All the time, God is good)
- An act of worship will take place daily, lasting approximately 15 minutes in all phases. Worship may involve the whole school, phases or year groups and may take place in school or in a local church. The format of the worship is shown below.
 - Suitable music will be played as the children enter and leave the hall accompanied by staff members
 - A candle is lit
 - A song of praise will be sung during the Worship ceremony
 - Reflective music may be played during worship
 - The worship will include prayers, a talk/drama and possibly a reading from the Bible
 - The worship will include elements from our set liturgy to gather the children and adults

Engaging

- This may be the main part in an act of worship. In a Church school, it should encourage children to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching, and most importantly, with God. We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We are listening for God's message to us.
- Worship will link to the half termly value and Monday worship will be linked directly to the theme. The half termly themes are as follows –
- Autumn 1 – Care; Autumn 2 – Hope; Spring 1 – Aspire; Spring 2 – Respect; Summer 1 – Inquire; Summer 2 – Share.
- The Worship rota will contain suggested activities and songs that may be used by teaching staff. Staff will briefly note their worship plan in the Worship folder. Other worship ideas can be found in the RE resources book in the Teacher Room.
- Worship will also reflect the major festivals in the Church calendar, other Christian events such as One World Week, world religion festivals and secular events.

Responding

- For every child and adult present, some response should be possible. All should understand that this is time set aside for deep thought and for each to respond in an appropriate way. We respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond together and as individuals. We are given the opportunity to worship God.

Sending

- The ending of the act of worship should be full of purpose, as people are sent out to be different and to 'do' differently. We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world. We are all dismissed with God's blessing.
- We use the call and response (Shine as lights in the world; Together we will be our best)

Additional Information

- Staff will bring children to and collect them from Worship promptly, ensuring that children behave in an orderly and quiet manner.
- Our Young leaders support worship
- Other services will be organised by the Headteacher and Clergy e.g. end of term services, thank you worship, Education Sunday.
- The training of staff in leading worship will be given by the Phase leaders. There will be occasional INSET on leading worship.
- Reception children will not attend worship during the first half term of the Autumn term. After that, they will attend Phase 1 and 2 worship on a Friday. After Christmas, they will attend Monday and Tuesday worships. In the summer term they will attend all worships.

An example of a week is below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Phase 1 and 2 (9.05-9.20) (Small Hall)	Values worship	Singing worship	Parish Team (Clergy)/Young Leaders	iSingPop worship	Celebration Worship
Phase 3 (9.05 -9.20) (Main Hall)	Values worship	Singing Worship (Year groups in classes)	Parish Team (Clergy)/Young Leaders	iSingPop worship	Celebration Worship

The following matters are dealt with at an operational level in school:

- personnel responsible for worship;

- personnel involved in leading worship, including learners;
- timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils;
- planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values;
- monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- taking account of SIAMS requirements as applicable to the specific situation;
- opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day.

This list is not exhaustive and other aspects may be included at the discretion of the school.

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

Acts of worship often include traditional and ritual aspects, these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Community Links

- Governors will be encouraged to attend worship services when they are in school.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

Worship will be monitored and evaluated by:

- Termly HT reports, including Collective Worship, reviewed by the LGB.
- Observing worship by members of the LGB.
- Children invited to feedback after Worship.
- Collecting feedback from groups of children on specific acts of worship such as Worship Crew, Year 6 and others.
- Using records of worship in specific folders.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Appendix 1

Opening Call and response

The Lord be with you
And Also with you

Candle Song

Infants

Light the candle everyday
When we come to school to pray
See the flame, all glowing bright
Warm and softly, bringing light
Jesus is like a candle too
He will shine his light on you.

Juniors

The light of Christ has come into the world (3 times)

Clergy input (including Powerpoint if appropriate)

Prayers – ending with The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Song (from a selection chosen by school – maybe practiced earlier in the week or previously)

School Prayer

Dear Loving God,
We thank you for our school.
Please help us:
To care for those around us,
To live in hope,
To aspire to be our best,
To respect our environment and each other,
To inquire and learn from what is good,
To share our faith and knowledge with each other.
Please help us to grow in gifts and grace,
We ask this in Jesus name,
Amen

Sending out

Let us go in the Peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

Document History:

Worship Policy	
Policy Type:	School
Policy Source:	
Approval By:	LGB
Review period:	Three years

Date Reviewed	Amendments Made	Date Approved	Approved By	Next Review Due
Feb 2019	Following new SIAMS framework	26/6/19	Spirituality Committee	Feb 2022
Jun 2023	Full review following new SIAMS framework w.e.f. Sept 2023	23/6/2023	Spirituality & Ethos	Jun 2026
June 2026	Updated structure and phase worship	10/7/2026	LGB	Jun 2029