

## **WINDSOR PARK CE MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Mission Statement:  
'Learning for Life'

**Our school is a place of endeavour, teamwork, friendship and laughter. Our shared Christian values and ambitions unite us.**

The aims of Windsor Park Church of England Middle School are to:

- Inspire a love of learning
- Develop a culture of high expectations and aspirations
- Engender the values of equality, respect and diversity
- Build emotional and intellectual resilience
- Encourage innovative, enterprising and inquisitive minds.

The contribution of Collective Worship in Windsor Park Church of England Middle School:

- Collective worship is central to the life of Windsor Park CE Middle School.
- It offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character.
- It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centred, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.
- Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants.
- Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all member of the school community.
- It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.
- Termly Eucharist services, led by Rev. Willets of St Mary the Virgin, Uttoxeter, allow those who have been confirmed or attended the Communion before Confirmation courses, to participate in personalised, spiritually uplifting communion experiences, and allow those who chosen not to participate to witness Christian practices.
- The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

*As a Church of England school our aims for collective worship are:*

*to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;*

*to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;*

*to enable children to explore their own beliefs;*

*to encourage participation and response;*

*to develop in children a sense of community spirit;*

*to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;*

*to teach children how to worship;*

*to enhance the Christian character of the school.*

At Windsor Park CE Middle School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We aspire to:

- offer a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community that are grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
- seek to make a difference to the lives of all members of the school community by engaging, challenging, encouraging and inspiring in a relevant way
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere that allows for spiritual reflection and response
- learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils’ experience and to living together in community
- explore and develop understanding of the Trinitarian nature of Christianity, providing a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- create an atmosphere in which faith in God is recognised and respected
- foster a reverential attitude to God and contribute to learners’ understanding of Christian theological concepts and beliefs at an appropriate level
- enable learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position He occupies in the Christian faith.
- set the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context
- give a significant place to the Bible relating this to the school’s core values and learners’ own lives.
- allow learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- allow participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- foster a search for meaning and values in life and of a faith to live by
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways whether prepared beforehand or spontaneous
- enable pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- identify clearly the distinctive features of different Christian traditions in worship particularly local Anglican practice, including Communion
- Celebrate Communion together each term
- provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- understand the value of personal prayer and reflection as part of the individual spiritual journey.
- develop understanding of the nature and purpose of prayer and the part prayer may play within an individual’s life and spiritual development and in the life of the worshipping community
- choose themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers

- offer regular encounters with Christian leaders
- provide a variety of leaders in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community.
- use a variety of settings, timings and environments to enrich worship
- ensure that worship engages with pupils at the start and provides an appropriate conclusion
- to explore the Christian value of generosity and practical ways in which this can be expressed, in particular in response to current affairs.

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:

- recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- reinforce school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines
- share school and community information

## **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The head-teacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

The programme for Collective Worship is designed by the Christian Character Working Group, who meet termly and consists of Foundation Governors, Reverend Margaret Sherwin, the Head-teacher, the Worship Co-ordinator and the Music teacher. Together they plan a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school. Each half term's planning revolves around a Christian Value.

The themes and values to be explored through worship times each half term are decided in advanced and shared with pupils and their parents through the Home/School Value sheets.

Reflective worship takes place in key stage groups, fortnightly and is led by form tutors. This is an opportunity to explore the term's 'value' in depth, to encourage pupils to reflect on their own experiences and beliefs and develop understanding of the experiences, beliefs and emotions of others. Pupils are encouraged to lead prayer and take time for spiritual reflection.

Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.

Records of plans and content are kept centrally, on the school computer system. It is the responsibility of the R.E. co-ordinator to ensure that these are kept updated.

Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so, particularly in the House Assemblies, which are led by members of each form every half term and the fortnightly Reflective Worship sessions.

Additionally pupils are invited to share opinions and suggestions on the further development of the school's Christian Character through Pupil Voice.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors, and takes place termly. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings. At present monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of Collective Worship is carried out through a termly pupil survey and discussions led by a group of pupils whose findings are fed into the termly Christian Character Working Group meeting.

The worship co-ordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. A negotiated budget ensures that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The worship co-ordinator keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

The Headteacher and worship co-ordinator are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

- Following the success of the indoor prayer space, a plan is in place to develop worship spaces around the school, both inside and out which can be used for prayer, reflection and remembrance.
- In line with the school development plan's approach of hearing pupils' voices, we plan further development of pupil input to evaluation and planning of collective worship and development of a pupil collective worship working group.
- We work closely with Rev. Sherwin building stronger links with our Parish Community through our Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin, Uttoxeter and other schools. Rev. Sherwin comes into school regularly to work with our Student Worship Team to help them to deliver worship and to develop this further so that they are able to lead worship in our feeder schools too.

## **RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL**

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

## CURRENT PRACTICE

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

	<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Form of Worship</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Tutor Group	8:55am	Form room	Form Tutor	Daily Prayer
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tutor Group	8:55am	Form room	Form tutor	Daily Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	Tutor Group Whole School	8:55am 1:35	Form room School Hall	Form tutor CCWG R.E.Coordinator/Form tutors	Daily Prayer Collective worship Reflective worship
<b>Thursday A</b>	Tutor Group Key stage 2 Key stage 3	8:55am 1:35 1:35	Form room Form rooms School Hall	Form tutor Class teacher Key Stage 3 Director	Daily Prayer Reflective worship Key stage collective worship
<b>Thursday B</b>	Tutor Group Key stage 3 Key stage 2	8:55am 1:35 1:35	Form room Class rooms School Hall	Form tutor Class teacher Key Stage 2 Director	Daily Prayer Reflective worship Key stage collective worship
<b>Thursday C</b>	Tutor Group Whole School	8:55am 1:35	Form room Hall	Form tutor CCWG	Daily Prayer Collective Worship
<b>Friday</b>	Tutor Group Houses (Half Termly)	8:55am 1:35	Form room Room 16/ Gym/ Hall	Form tutor Form tutor	Daily Prayer House Assembly

\*In addition the school worships in Church at Easter, Christmas and on pupils' First Communion, parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions.

\*The Eucharist is celebrated in the school every term.

\*Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

Whilst our worship programme is planned in advance, there is always be room for flexibility, for spontaneous moments or occasions when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience.

## APPENDICES

- 1) Worship Programme - list of themes
- 2) Bi-annual cycle of worship themes

*Date ratified by the Governing Body:*

*Date next review due:*

*Signed:*

*Chair of Governors*

*Headteacher*

*Worship Co-ordinator*