



# Windsor Park CE Middle School

*Learning for Life*

*"Teach me good judgement and knowledge"*

*Psalm 119:66*

## Collective Worship Policy

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## OUR VISION

### Learning for Life

***“Teach me good judgement and knowledge”***

***Psalm 119:66***

**As a Church of England school and a founding partner in the Uttoxeter Learning Trust community, the teachings of Jesus are at the heart of all we do. Whilst striving for excellence, we celebrate achievement in all its forms and encourage pupils and staff to live life in all its glory and flourish.**

## OUR MISSION

- 1. Encourage all children irrespective of background or ability to fulfil their God-given potential and flourish. Our broad and balanced curriculum takes a holistic approach to education ensuring that spirituality, emotional intelligence, physical development, academic excellence and social skills are developed creatively across a range of school subjects.*
- 2. Deliver a safe space for children to develop philosophical and theological thinking through Religious Education as a core subject; delivering inspirational lessons which bestow upon pupils the skills to understand Christianity as a living and diverse faith, whilst teaching a knowledge and respect of other faiths and world views.*
- 3. Value education in its widest sense; building on our history and Christian foundations, making the most of today in order that we can make even more of tomorrow and the days, weeks, months and years that lie ahead. This is Learning for Life: ‘teach me good judgement and knowledge’ Psalm 119:66*
- 4. Foster respect for all God’s children; embracing difference and diversity and teaching all to live well together in an inclusive, welcoming community, supporting each other to remove or cross barriers and live with dignity and respect.*
- 5. Reinforce the Christian values and beliefs that will make our children good people: kind, honest, forgiving and courageous.*
- 6. Care deeply about our pupils’ and staff wellbeing and mental health, appreciating that it is the genuine quality of relationships that matter. We strive to support each other to flourish, achieving happiness and fulfilment.*

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*7. Encourage our pupils to approach local and global communities with a deep sense of integrity, justice, responsibility and courageous advocacy; identifying and challenging injustice.*

*8. Collaborate primarily with St Mary the Virgin church to share the teachings of Jesus through inspirational collective worship. Develop, deliver and evaluate opportunities for pupils and adults to express spirituality through varied worship experiences.*

*9. Encourage and nurture exploration, creativity and compassion with unlimited and unbounded energy. At Windsor Park learning is not a spectator sport.*

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.Sherwin or Rev.Dale of St Mary the Virgin, Uttoxeter, allow those who have been confirmed to participate in a spiritually uplifting communion experience, those who choose to receive a personal blessing do so in front of the whole school, without fear of judgement and those who choose not to participate are able 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.

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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 through our worship we aspire to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

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

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- 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 Headteacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring compliance with all legal requirements.

The programme for Collective Worship is designed by the Christian Character Working Group, which consists of Foundation Governors, Reverend Margaret Sherwin, the Headteacher and the Worship Co-ordinator. 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 term we explore one of our school 'Core Values' of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility in addition to this each half term's planning includes a further 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 is an opportunity to explore the half-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.

Exploration of scripture is done through the use of Devotional Dippers. Each dipper features a Bible quote to be found and discussed. The dipper has questions to consider to develop understanding of the quote.

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 Worship 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 those who choose to join the Student Worship Team, in addition to House Assemblies, which are led by members of each form every half term. Pupils are encouraged to take a leading role in Classroom Worship.

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 half-termly class evaluations, termly pupil survey

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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 residential trips to Dovedale House with the Student Worship Teams from Hutchison and All Saints, further development of the student Worship Team program, to eventually involve pupils from non-church schools.
- In line with the monitoring and evaluation of worship by pupils, establish a form of evaluation by staff members.
- 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 deliver worship. Jordan Lambert (combined churches youth leader) leads worship and works 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>Day</b>	<b>Grouping</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Form of Worship</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Class	8:55am	Lesson 1	Form Tutor	Classroom Worship
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Class	8:55am	Lesson 1	Form Tutor	Classroom Worship

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<b>Tuesday A</b>	Key Stage 2	3:20pm	School Hall	Alix Morris	Collective Worship
	Key stage 3		Form Rooms	Form Tutors	Form time
<b>Tuesday B</b>	Key Stage 2	3:20pm	Form Rooms	Form Tutors	Form time
	Key stage 3		School Hall	Kjersti Bould	Collective Worship
<b>Wednesday</b>	Class	8:55am	Lesson 1	Form Tutor	Classroom Worship
	Alton /Chartley	3:20pm	School Hall	CCWG	Reflective Worship
	Tutbury/ SuperTutors	3:20pm	Form Rooms	Form Tutor	Whole School Worship
<b>Thursday</b>	Class	8:55am	Lesson 1	Lesson 1 Teacher	Classroom Worship
	Alton /Chartley	3:20pm	Form Rooms	Form Tutor	Key Stage Worship
	Tutbury/ SuperTutors	3:20pm	School Hall	CCWG	Reflective Worship
<b>Friday</b>	Class	8:55	Lesson 1	Lesson 1 Teacher	Classroom Worship

\*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 or at church 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.

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## Appendix 1. Worship Programme: List of Themes

### Cycle Year 1

	<b>Core Value</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>To include</b>
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Respect	Thankfulness	Harvest Remembrance
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>		Hope	Advent Christmas
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Resilience	Trust	Epiphany
<b>Spring Term 2</b>		Humility	Lent Easter
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Responsibility	Service	Pentecost
<b>Summer Term 2</b>		Empathy	

### Cycle Year 2

	<b>Core Value</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>To include</b>
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Responsibility	Generosity	Harvest Remembrance
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>		Peace	Advent Christmas
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Respect	Truthfulness	Epiphany
<b>Spring Term 2</b>		Forgiveness	Lent Easter
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Resilience	Justice	Pentecost
<b>Summer Term 2</b>		Compassion	

### Cycle Year 3

	<b>Core Value</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>To include</b>
<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Resilience	Aspiration	Harvest Remembrance
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>		Courage	Advent Christmas
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	Responsibility	Discipline & Perseverance	Epiphany
<b>Spring Term 2</b>		Friendship	Lent Easter
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	Respect	Wisdom	Pentecost
<b>Summer Term 2</b>		Creativity	

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