Woodseaves CE Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Mission Statement:

At Woodseaves CE Academy everyone and everything is valued, appreciated and **respected**. We aim to provide an **inspiring**, happy, caring and safe learning environment within a Christian ethos, where all our children thrive, **achieve** their potential and are ready for the next stage of their learning journey.

At Woodseaves we express the love of God through our 6 shared School Christian values which we hope will build character and inform attitudes and behaviours in our children consistent with the teaching of Christ.

Responsibility (Service)
Hope
Cooperation (Friendship)
Honesty (Truthfulness)
Understanding (Forgiveness)
Courage

We focus on one of these values each half term which we tie in to Collective Worship, PSHE and RE as appropriate.

General Principles

- Collective worship is central to the life of Woodseaves CE Academy.
- 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 inclusive, educational, 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 members of the school community.
- It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective worship at Woodseaves CE Academy aims 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)

This is achieved by:

- allowing learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- allowing 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.
- ensuring that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- fostering a search for meaning and values in life and of a faith to live by
- enabling pupils to develop as independent worshippers
- providing opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- developing 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
- choosing themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct
- enabling pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian believers
- offering regular encounters with a range of leaders from different Christian traditions
- using a variety of settings, timings and environments to enrich worship
- making regular use of local church buildings for worship
- ensuring that worship engages with pupils at the start and provides an appropriate conclusion
- exploring the Christian value of generosity and practical ways in which this can be expressed, in particular in response to current affairs.
- avoiding a confessional approach, use owning language such as 'Christians believe that….'

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
- to celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Local 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 all legal requirements are complied with.

This involves the planning of 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.

A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning.

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

The themes and values to be explored through worship times each term/year will be decided in advanced and shared with pupils and their parents.

Records of plans and content are kept centrally by the Headteacher and 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.

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 annually. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure ongoing relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings. At present the following arrangements for effective review are in place:

- Headteacher sets development targets through the School Development Plan which are reviewed termly
- Foundation governors visit school regularly to monitor collective worship/visit classrooms
- Foundation governors carry out pupil/parent voice surveys
- The school holds a Service Level Agreement with CECET and therefore an advisor works with the school to develop/review practice

The Headteacher, as worship coordinator, 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 our effectively.

The Headteacher 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 is 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.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL

At Woodseaves CE Academy we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the headteacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents beliefs and values.

CURRENT PRACTICE

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

	Grouping	**Time**	**Place**	**Responsible**
Monday	Whole School	10AM	hall	Rev.Kathryn/ Rev. Nathan
Tuesday	Reception & KS1 KS 2	2.45PM 10AM	Classroom	Teaching Staff
Wednesday	Whole School	9.40	Hall	P Gallant/ L Norbroom
Thursday	Whole School	10AM	Hall	P Gallant
Friday	Whole School	10AM	Hall	P Gallant

*In addition the school worships in Church on the following occasions Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost and Leavers Service

Ratified by the Foundation Committee on 9.03.16

Next review by: March 2018