South Wilford Endowed CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

2026

The school's Christian vision and Ethos

South Wilford Endowed CE Primary School

Our Vision

To Spark the Flame and Light up the World.

We are here to be a light, bringing out the God colours in the world.

Our Values

To Be Curious-*Encounter Jesus*
To Love and Respect-*Become Like Him*
To Be Brave and have no limits-*Do the things He did*

Our Mission

'To Be at Our Best'

To always be at our best in our learning and spiritual journey. Through a collective commitment to high expectations and putting our faith at the centre of all we do, not only can we ensure that no doors are closed, but that the biggest and heaviest doors are wide open and our calling is clear.

By living out our Christian values and providing rich experiences, we will have the courage to walk through those doors with resilience, confidence and excitement to be all God meant us to be.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

To always be at our best in our learning and spiritual journey.

Through a collective commitment to high expectations and putting our faith at the centre of all we do, not only can we ensure that no doors are closed, but that the biggest and heaviest doors are wide open and our calling is clear.

By living out our Christian values and providing rich experiences, you will have the courage to walk through those doors with resilience, confidence and excitement to be all God meant you to be.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At South Wilford, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. As such, we ensure that all children feel included, whatever their faith or background. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

Collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given through platforms such a Votes for Schools where we will compare challenges faced today with those faced in biblical times. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.[1]

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. It may take place in the main hall, in classrooms, the studio or outside. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship at South Wilford should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

There are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(*This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at South Wilford 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 know 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.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was agreed in collaboration with the School Governors, staff and children.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

Leadership

- The leading of collective worship is shared throughout school between the SLT and all staff
- Children lead aspects of collective worship throughout the week through the lighting of the candle, opening and closing prayers and the singing of the blessing.
- The children's worship leaders group lead worship on Thursdays to the whole school.
- Class teachers or year group leaders lead classroom acts of worship.
- Phase leaders lead phase collective worship

Planning

- Monday whole school worship is led by the headteacher and will be linked to the school vision and values or to a particular festival. This will be planned according to current events and needs of the school.
- All leaders have access to the Roots and Fruits collective worship materials and we follow this pattern of worship through the year
- Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year and is planned according to this.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- Anglican tradition is reflected in the opening and closing prayers and the singing of the blessing.

- The range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world through the use of Votes for Schools. These materials highlight a big question from current events and leades will then link this to the school values and stories from the bible.
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured during collective worship
- Sung worship takes place daily in smaller groups and weekly as a whole school.

Faith Partnership

- We are a school that is part of a faith partnership with Transform Trust. Within this group are 4 schools- Bulwell St Marys CE Primary, Sneinton St Stephen's CE Primary and Zaytouna Muslim faith school.
- At significant events, we join together to worship over zoom, sharing reflections, prayer and song.
- Annually we come together in person to celebrate the similarities and differences we share as faith schools. This is attended by clergy and representatives from the school's communities.

Organisation

Monday	Whole school Collective Worship led by HT
Tuesday	Votes for Schools- DHT: Y23456 EY/KS1 Phase lead-EY, Y1
Wednesday	Sung Collective Worship: In Phases
Thursday	Pupil Led Collective Worship- Roots and Fruits programme: In Phases
Friday	Whole School Act of Celebration- At our Best!

Development and training

Training of staff takes place through the Diocese CPD offer. This includes CPD for children to become collective worship leaders.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The practical strategies used to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship
- Those involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship include the children, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy and external reviewers of the school.
- As an SLT and whole staff team we regularly review and adapt practice to ensure we are always improving and providing the best experiences for the children.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy will be reviewed annually- Next review October 2027