

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Colossians 3:16***

1. MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

The school holds a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils within the school, which fulfils the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988. The act of Collective Worship is held within the school. On certain occasions, it may be held at special locations.

All pupils attend daily Collective Worship (Except where parents have exercised their right of withdrawal.)

Collective worship is appropriate to all family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils.

Collective worship at Woodmansey CE Primary is a special time of the day allowing us to build on our learning and strengthen the school family.

2. THE DEFINITION OF AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Collective Worship at Woodmansey CE Primary School is defined as:

1. The response of people towards a supreme creation in ways that includes prayer, action and adoration.
2. A special reverence and a high regard which people give to those beliefs, values, ideals and achievements, which they take to be of ultimate worth and lasting significance. This includes recognition of special people, their efforts, struggles and their response to suffering.

3. AGREED AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- To contribute to the personal development of the individual, and develop positive attitudes. To enhance spiritual and moral development.
- To encourage individuals to explore and question their own beliefs and to consider the beliefs and feelings of others.
- To be inclusive, relevant to children's experiences, benefit all and foster a sense of community, shared purpose and of Christian values.
- To be educational, reflect the school ethos and contribute to the development of the whole child whilst celebrating a range of achievements.
- Be spiritual, provide a space for reflection, offer a sense of occasion and introduce children to the spiritual dimension of life.

4. WORSHIP AT WOODMANSEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective worship in school, will provide over time opportunities for pupils to:

- worship God
- experience prayer, and give thanks to God
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs and those of others
- appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- think about the needs of others
- feel thankful and spread hope
- develop a sense of community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values
- reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school
- celebrate the various achievements of the community that are held to be of worth and appreciate and develop positive values.
- celebrate and praise and share gifts and talents
- Engage in an act of community.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

5. THE ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Most daily worships are 15 minutes long, though sometimes they are longer. The worship will begin with the lighting of the hall candle, signifying the start of a special time of our school day.

Usual Arrangements for the Daily Act of Worship

Place: SCHOOL HALL

Arrangements for the Supervision of Pupils Exercising the Right of Withdrawal

Pupils will work in the entrance area of the school near the Head of School's office until the worship is over.

Arrangements for Staff Leadership of School Worship

Worship is led by Senior Leaders on a Monday and Friday (Celebration Worship).
Worship is led by teachers on a rota during the week.

6. WORSHIP LONG TERM PLAN

Each term a programme of themes is prepared by the subject leader.

They will ensure that the planned programme is wholly Christian in nature.

Weekly themes are designed so that those taking the collective worship can interpret the theme in individual ways, providing variety and opportunity for diversity. Each theme is accompanied by the “thought for the week”. These are displayed in all rooms and also provide a suggestion for a worship. The thoughts of the week are linked to one of our school Christian values.

The list below is only a starting point for the creation of the themes. Themes often relate to national and religious events and times of the year, linking with the pattern of the school year.

Starting points for themes for collective worship

Angels	Attitude	Awareness
Beauty	The Bible	Hope
Following God	Forgiveness	Friendship
Children	Compassion	Community
The Cross	Death	Discipleship
Making a Difference	Meaning of Life	Miracles
Empowerment	Eternity	Evangelisation
Faith	Fear	Respect
Giving	God	God's Providence
Happiness	Honesty	Holy Trinity
Humility	Humour	In Memory Of
Just for Fun	Leadership	Learning
Listening	Loneliness	Love

Collective Worship Policy

Woodmansey CE Primary School

Peace

Perseverance

Praise

Prayer

Responsibility

Sacrifice

Teaching

Transformation

Trials

Truth

Trust

Understanding

Important occasions in the school and church year to be recognised in the school's collective worship calendar.

Epiphany

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Middle of Winter

Holocaust Memorial Day Presentation of Christ in the Temple Saint Valentine's Day

Lent

Saint David's Day

Saint Patrick's Day

Mothering Sunday

April Fool's Day

St George's Day

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday Easter Day

Ascension

Pentecost

Trinity Sunday Examinations Independence Day End of the school year Holidays

Start of a new term Harvest Festival

All Saints' Day Remembrance

Advent Christmas New Year

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

In addition, the Interfaith Calendar is included to enable references to other faiths to be made. Whilst maintaining the Christian nature of worship, it will enable the similarities between faith communities to be shared.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

A "Thought of the Week" links directly to the worship theme of the week. This is posted in every classroom and office and is designed to promote thought and discussion and provide potential links between the daily act of worship, the curriculum and the PSCE programme.

7. POSSIBILITIES WHEN LEADING WORSHIP

1. Time to:

share
listen and think
celebrate
support
be still
experience silence

2. Having a clear focus

A focus which pupils will learn to recognise and respect and associate with the activity e.g. the lighting of a candle, a vase of flowers, a painting/photograph, a piece of sculpture, a religious symbol, a cross, a shell or other natural object etc.

Having a worship table is an important part of demonstrating that this part of the school day is different and special.

3. Silence

The use of silence, is encouraged through stilling exercises and guided reflection. Worship will regularly conclude with silence.

4. Possible activities:

The following can provide opportunities for worship:

- a greeting e.g. 'God/Peace be with you', 'And also with you' etc.
- a short passage of scripture
- a story, poem or piece of literature
- a picture, poster or slide
- a prayer
- use of a simple ritual e.g. holding hands in a circle for a short time
- a hymn, song or chant which the pupils like, know well and will join in
- unusual items, different from the "focus" ones to assist reflection e.g. an object
- from the natural world, e.g. a twisted root or an object from the technological world to enhance consideration of the power and creativity of human beings
- an account of an event or experience from your own/pupils' personal life

- music, silence, mime or dance e.g. in response to a story

Worship however is only achieved when those who are present are invited to reflect on the spirituality of the activity.

5. Reflection

Pupils will be **invited**, to reflect on the content of the worship. The school's WOW (Worship Our Way) group will lead worship monthly. They will meet weekly as a group to discuss events and/or problems within school and plan and use worship to resolve or teach.

6. Music

Appropriate music to begin and end an assembly will help to create the required atmosphere and enhance the experience.

7. Announcements

If at all possible these will be at the start before the Act of Worship occurs. This way the pupils leave the assembly to contemplate the message of the worship.

8. PLANNING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Staff will plan and resource their collective worship ensuring it meets the needs of the children. WOW club will plan, present and lead worship monthly. Both staff and members of the WOW club can/should use the following:

Methods Used to Conduct Collective Worship:

It is agreed that Collective Worship will include some of the following:

Music

Exposition of an idea using a variety of methods, which engage the interest of pupils

Stories

Poems

Pupil Presentations

Visitors

EVERY COLLECTIVE ACT OF WORSHIP SHOULD INCLUDE:

a) the consideration of concepts that are of Christian nature

(In all the planned emphases including those covering major Faiths and the celebration of achievement, it is assumed that concepts, which are of Christian nature, will be appropriately covered.)

b) a time of guided reflection which may include the reading of prayers/prose/poetry

(It is not assumed that all children will participate in prayer as worship is invitational and it will always be made clear that this is a time for personal reflection which may take a variety of forms according to the belief of the individual.)

RESOURCES

In order to help teachers to plan their assemblies there are a range of websites providing supporting materials.

MUSIC

In order to promote good quality singing and music in a worship, a range of hymns and songs are available to the staff. This includes the provision of backing tracks and slides with the lyrics.

One of the Key aims of Collective Worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED BY:

- the celebration of special achievements;
- guided reflection;
- the consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings;
- the appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and contribute to a sense of awe, wonder and creativity;

MORAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED BY:

- the consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society;
- the consideration of relationships and bullying;
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED BY:

- coming together as a school community;
- bringing visitors into school from the community;
- sharing values and matters of concern.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED BY:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds;
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture.

9. WITHDRAWAL

The right of withdrawal from collective worship for staff and pupils will be maintained. Staff should ensure that they have informed the Head Teacher in writing of their decision to exercise their right of withdrawal. Parents must inform the Head Of School in writing if they wish to withdraw their child(ren) from collective worship.

10.CO-ORDINATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for provision of the collective act of worship is that of the Executive Head Teacher, Head of School and Governors.

11. RECORD KEEPING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A record of acts of worship presented is kept and a planning format is offered. Staff are however at liberty to use assemblies from books and the Internet without unnecessary rewriting of plans
Staff leading worship will complete an evaluation form. These are kept in a file for the term in the hall. The co-ordinator will carry out evaluation at the end of each year following discussion with staff. This will influence the planning and delivery of future provision. The co-ordinator will watch worship carried out by other members of staff and visitors.

12. RESOURCES

The following are available in school from the coordinator and/or in the Assembly/Worship file;

Music for Reflection

Religious and multi-cultural music

Some primary collective worship resources

Websites

Interfaith calendar

Record sheet