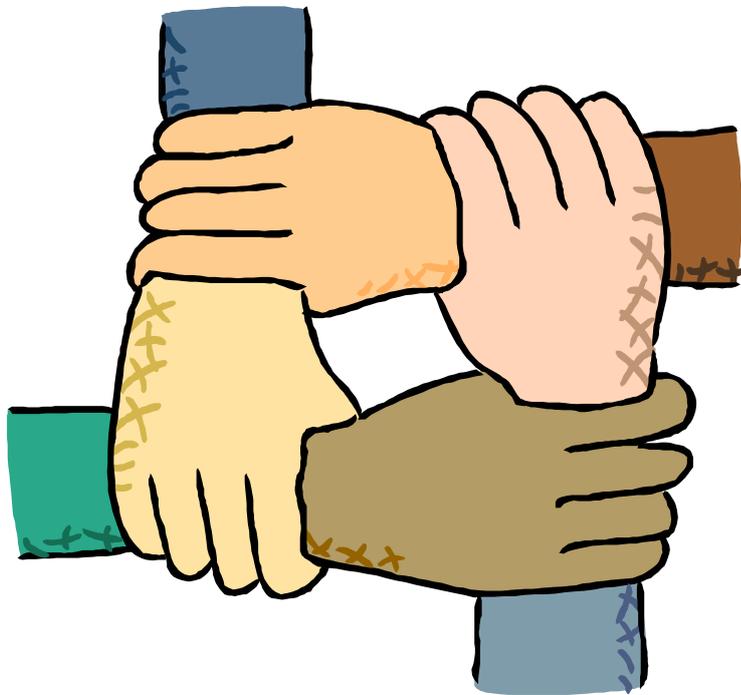




WOOLGROVE SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Updated: November 2018
Review November 2021

What is Collective Worship?

The 1988 Education Act requires that every school should provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The majority of which each term should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Collective worship should 'reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination.'

At Woolgrove School pupils will be given the opportunity to join in an act of collective worship every week with a whole school gathering or departmental/class group. On other days, there will be opportunities for reflection, celebration, thanksgiving or quiet class groups.

At Woolgrove School the pupils will gather together for an assembly (half school) Monday and Thursdays which will include an act of worship within it. The pupils will sing a song with a spiritual focus.

On these occasions, the school will assemble as a community, which will include time to consider and celebrate aspects of the spiritual dimension of life, reflecting the varied beliefs and experiences of the pupils and teachers. There will be some personal space to be quiet, to think and to reflect.

Worship at Woolgrove School will reflect something special taking into account the work we embrace with our pupils in developing their social, moral, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being. The pupils will be supported to engage in this reflecting their level of understanding.

The Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide a time each day when pupils can become aware of themselves, of each other and of the school as a community.
- To explain the main events in the Christian calendar in terms the children may be able to understand.
- To deepen pupils' sense of wonder when they think about God's universe and their place within it.
- To increase their awareness of the needs of others and to understand how their own actions affect other people and, consequently, themselves.
- To learn to accept and value that each person is different and has his or her own contribution to make to the community.

Objectives

During Collective Worship, pupils are encouraged to:

- sit quietly and listen to speakers and to each other,
- contribute when given the opportunity,
- show a concern for each other,
- show an interest in the wider world,
- think about and experience a range of feelings,
- explore new ideas.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way, collective worship is inclusive, not exclusive.

Do special schools have to make provision for collective worship?

The Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994 state:

‘Arrangements shall be made to secure that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending the school will attend daily collective worship and receive religious education, or will be withdrawn from attendance at such worship or from receiving such education in accordance with the wishes of his parent.’

It is expected that special schools will be providing daily opportunities for collective worship. Circumstances may well prevent a school meeting on five days and in any case it would be legitimate for such a school to decide that small gatherings of pupils would provide a better educational opportunity for collective worship.

Assemblies are accompanied by music and some dramatization, this is led by an adult, where all pupils are encouraged to participate. There will be varying degrees of explicit or implicit reference to Christianity or any of the other main faiths. Collective worship is not the same as an Assembly because staff and pupils do not have the right to withdraw from Assembly.

Expectations for an Assembly

- The member of staff taking the assembly should be the first one there and have music playing and preparations made ready for the pupils to arrive. They will be supported by members of the Leadership/or Teaching Team. Staff will be signing, to promote inclusivity.

- Staff bringing the pupils should ensure that they are calm and quiet as they reach the doors to the assembly venue. The pupils should enter and sit down quietly with their class group.
- Staff are expected to model good listening behaviour.
- Pupils will be expected to participate appropriately in assemblies. Staff should encourage this, through the assemblies they prepare and in their own responses.
- Pupils will be encouraged to join in with the activities and also with singing. Words will be displayed and staff are encouraged to support this with signing the key words.
- The member of staff leading the assembly will ensure that guidance is given for the pupils to leave in an orderly manner.

Background

Collective worship is seen as a very valuable part of the curriculum, affording an opportunity for the school to come together and to reflect on the values underpinning a Christian society.

We believe that pupils should develop a respect for those who follow other major religions and references are made to other faiths, and assemblies held as appropriate. The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers/staff may also withdraw from worship.

Values and Aims

We believe collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child, is reflected in our worship. We pay attention to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We value this special time in the school day, for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

- Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.

Collective Worship involves staff and pupils coming together to:

- reflect on God and His creation.
- understand and value the life of Jesus.
- learn to care for and respect each other and for all living things.

A week at Woolgrove

Monday

At the start of each week, half the school joins together for Collective Worship, which is taken by the Headteacher, a member of staff, a class, or a visiting speaker e.g. the local Curate.

Thursdays

Collective Worship is held as Monday for the remaining half of the school.

Friday

There is an additional Celebration when pupils' achievements are celebrated with the Headteacher.

Daily

The pupils say a prayer before eating their school dinner/packed lunch

The Content of Collective Worship

Use maybe made of:

- pupils' contributions,
- visitors,
- live and recorded music,
- pictures, plants and artefacts,
- hymns, carols and songs,
- dance and drama,

- poems, stories and readings,
- writing with symbols and signing.

The music played at the beginning and end covers aspects of the National Curriculum, such as recognising different instruments, hearing composers from different periods and countries, and becoming familiar with a variety of genres

Recording

The Headteacher/ Teaching Assistant is responsible for ensuring that a record is kept of the acts of Collective Worship.

Evaluating Collective Worship

At this school, we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils,
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- positive response to share experience
- an atmosphere which matches the theme,
- a contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- a sense of occasion
- that the Worship is cross curricular (links to PSHCE etc)
- enrichment of pupil's experience.

HYMNS

Some of these hymns are sung at Woolgrove.

Be Strong, Be Bold
 Can you hear the raindrops?
 Friends, friends, friends
 From the tiny ant to the elephant
 Give me oil in my lamp
 He's got the whole world in his hands
 I love the sun, it shines on me
 Jesus Love is very wonderful
 My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
 One more step along the world I go
 Praise Him, praise Him

Shalom
Sit up, clap hands, say thank you Lord
Thank you
Thank you, Lord for this New Day
The wise man built his house upon the rock
Think, think, think on these things
Water of Life
Who built the ark?
Who made the twinkling stars?
Who put the colours in the rainbow?

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Away in a manger
Go tell it on the mountain
Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road
Mary had a baby, yes Lord
Silent night
We three kings
We wish you a merry Christmas
While shepherds watched their flocks by night

EASTER

We have a King who rides a donkey

HARVEST

The farmer comes to scatter the seed

DIWALI

Diwali is here

WELCOME NEW STAFF/PUPILS

We welcome you to Woolgrove School