



**A love for
learning, life and
one another.**

Kindness, Trust, Respect,
Truth, Courage, Forgiveness

NAME OF POLICY	Collective Worship Policy
REF:	WPS/February 2026/VERSION1
COMMITTEE:	HT & Foundation Governors
SUBJECT LEAD:	Mrs Jo Needham
DATE OF LAST REVIEW:	February 2026
REVIEW CYCLE:	Biannually

Our School's Vision

We are a primary school located in rural Wiltshire working closely with other schools within Equa Mead Learning Trust. Our vision is to cultivate a community where a love of learning flourishes. We endeavour to empower individuals to embrace curiosity and develop a thirst for knowledge enabling them to achieve their fullest potential. We strive to nurture a culture where a love for one another celebrates diversity, fosters compassion, creates an inclusive community for all and gives every child, every chance. Our aim is to grow well-rounded individuals who embrace opportunity, bounce back from setbacks and feel confident to be themselves.

Our Christian vision is underpinned by Paul's letter to the Ephesians which explains how God's love is limitless and whilst we can never fully understand its power, we can allow it to influence how we live. Love is at the heart of everything we do at Woodborough and our values of Kindness, Trust, Respect, Truth, Courage, Forgiveness are lived out throughout our school community.

Introduction

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
Matthew 22: 37-38 (The pursuit of excellence)

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, we welcome our responsibility of ensuring that our Acts of Worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and develop learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. The Christian liturgical year will be recognised and followed. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the governing body. To this end, we strive to create the right environment, deliver the right content and embrace new ideas. We apply our school values of courage, truth, forgiveness, respect, trust and kindness to enable every individual to flourish within a moral framework built on Christian values. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values, which permeate the ethos of the school.

"Worship is about being captured by the beauty of Jesus and letting that change everything." — paraphrase of Archbishop Justin Welby's emphasis on transformational worship

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Collective Worship Timetable

Monday - Whole School Worship
Tuesday - Singing Worship
Wednesday - Open the Book
Thursday - Whole School Worship
Friday - Celebration Worship

Aims and Purpose

It is our aim at Woodborough School is that Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of worship and see its relevance to everyday life.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- 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.
- Stimulate a feeling of awe and wonder, enabling a closer presence with God.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

The act of Collective Worship should:

- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer, traditional Anglican responses.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school.
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual.
- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us.
- Foster a concern for others within the school, the community and the wider world.
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.
- Appreciation of other faiths and respect for different beliefs and practices.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.

Organisation and approach

Collective Worship is planned around our vision, our six core school values, the Bible and the liturgical calendar. The content of all acts of Collective Worship is considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Our collective worship is planned on a two-week cycle, with each cycle focusing on a single Bible story. This approach enables children to engage with the story more deeply, develop their understanding and retain key knowledge. In the first week, the story is introduced and located within the Bible, making explicit links to our Christian vision and values. In the second week, children explore specific aspects of the story in greater depth and consider how these relate to their own lives and our shared values. Each cycle includes linked actions for children to carry out, encouraging them to live out the

message of the story. We conclude each cycle with a reflective act of worship, revisiting the key elements of the story, reflecting on what has been learned and the impact it has had on the children. We also listen to pupils' feedback on collective worship to help us continually improve and ensure it remains meaningful and relevant.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are used in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can also be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources are used including ICT. Leaders choose the style/method and resources, which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Setting the scene:

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and thinking. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully, and to participate in prayer and hymns or singing.

Worship is held in the hall, where there is a wooden cross and the Bible as a focal point and candles are lit to represent the Trinity at the start of each worship. We have a cloth on the worship table in liturgical colours (see appendix), mirroring the church year and there are banners made by children with our school values and plaques depicting the Ten Commandments.

A song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types, likewise with the songs we sing. We select our songs/music carefully to match the value/theme. Each week we have a singing worship (hymn practice) during which we take time to consider carefully the words of the songs and make this a worshipful experience by our reflection and responses to the words and music. We regularly include 'traditional' hymns.

We aim to provide the opportunity for children to listen to a wide variety of music as they arrive and leave the hall for worship. The entry and exit music also contributes towards creating the reflective atmosphere in the hall space. Year 6 children are responsible for setting up the hall for worship, for operating the music and ICT equipment.

Opening and Closing Collective Worship:

In line with the Church of England tradition, Collective Worship begins with the following opening responses lead by Year 6.

Leader: Come to us this day, O God

All: Come to us with light

Leader: Speak to us this day, O God

All: Speak to us your truth

Leader: Be with us this day, O God

All: Be with us in love

Opening statement

A child reads while the candle is lit:

As we light this candle, we remember that we are gathered together in a spirit of love. A love for learning, life and one another.

Closing statement

A child reads as the candle is extinguished:

As we extinguish this candle, may its light remain in our hearts, guiding us to live with love through all we do today.

Prayer:

We recognise that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe, because of this we are able to use prayers from many different traditions if we deem appropriate.

We have added significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merits reflection and prayers.

Children are invited to contribute to writing and then reading their prayer, based on the term's value. The school prayer is said daily, and the Lord's Prayer is regularly shared. A prayer is also offered at lunchtime as a whole school. We also share prayers with other schools across the Trust.

In addition to a prayer, we include the use of silence to provide an opportunity for pupils to respond in their own personal way if they so wish. We offer the children the chance to reflect by posing a question for them to think about, relating to the theme of the worship, during a short period of silence.

Our School Prayer:

Our School Prayer

O Lord, Bless our School,

That working together and playing together,

We may learn to love you and to love one another.

Amen

Worship Council

Children's input in Collective Worship takes the form of pupil led assemblies during each term. Children from Year 5, 4 and 3 plan and lead the Collective Worship, under the guidance of Mrs Needham (Collective Worship Coordinator). The Worship Council also takes the lead for whole school celebrations, e.g. Harvest Service, Candlemas.

Church School Liaison

A member of the Vale of Pewsey clergy team leads collective Worship regularly, usually Canon

Floate. Collective Worship is held in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woodborough at the end of Term 2 and 6, along with an Easter Eucharist service, a Christingle Service and a Carol Service. Year 6 children take an active role in all the church services during the year, by leading the prayers and taking the readings. Church services are planned to enable the children to be actively involved in most services, each class will present an aspect of the theme and will be as actively involved as possible.

Members of the wider church community prepare and lead regular “Open the Book” worship, sharing Bible stories with the children.

All members of the school are invited to take part in family worship at the churches within the Pewsey Team, together with events such as Mothering Sunday, Advent, and Harvest and Holiday Club workshops. These are publicised through our newsletter.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator. The school has a budget to develop these resources. The school can apply to the Bishop Wordsworth Trust for extra funding for Collective worship resources.

Evaluation

We evaluate whether acts of collective worship have been transformational by considering:

- How well pupils can articulate the actions they have taken as a result of worship.
- The links pupils make between worship, the school's vision and values.
- The impact worship has on pupils' attitudes, choices and everyday lives, both within and beyond school.

Monitoring

- The collection of pupil feedback is an integral part of each collective worship cycle.
- Pupil responses – including opinions, ideas and questions - are collected in pupil voice.
- Worship leaders regularly reflect on the effectiveness and impact of collective worship.
- Parents and family attending collective worship are requested to complete an evaluation form that contributes to our evidence base for self-evaluation.
- Governors are also invited to evaluate collective worship when in attendance and provide informal feedback to the Collective Worship Coordinator.
- Pupil views are shared and discussed with the Worship Council.
- Governors are responsible for monitoring the policy. Visits and reports by governors are discussed at FGB meetings.
- SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections evaluate the impact of collective worship on the school community and its contribution to the values and ethos of the school.

Legal Status

The Act of Collective Worship in Woodborough Primary School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, whereby there must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude, and is in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon

non-Anglican (Christian) traditions.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Rights of Withdrawal

Parents and Carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, but by requesting and accepting a place at Woodborough Church of England Primary School it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the centrality of Christianity to the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and collective worship in its daily life.

If you do wish for your child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Head teacher. The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed at this time.

In formally Voluntary Aided schools, teachers, including the head teacher, do not have the right of withdrawal.

Role of the Subject Lead and Governors

At Woodborough School our subject lead is Mrs Needham, who is responsible for supporting staff in their planning of worship where necessary. The subject lead is also responsible for organising and replenishing resources and for monitoring all aspects of worship within the school.

All governors must bear in mind the principles of the Church of England, of the Trust Deed and of the Ethos Statement of the school in relation to the core elements of governance. It is the role of the foundation governor to put all decisions and discussions within the context of the Christian foundation of the school.

Provision For Monitoring and Review

Collective Worship will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Headteacher, the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and the nominated Foundation Governor. Strengths and areas for development will be highlighted and noted

The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Appendix

Liturgical Colours

White:

From Christmas Day to the Presentation at the Temple
From Easter Day to the eve of Pentecost.

Red:

Holy week;
Pentecost;
All Saint's Day to the beginning of Advent.

Purple:

Advent;

Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

Green:

From the Presentation to Shrove Tuesday;
from Pentecost to All Saints' Eve

In chronological order:

White: 25th Dec - early February

Green: early February - Shrove Tuesday

Purple: Ash Wednesday - Palm Sunday (Lent)

Red: Holy Week

White: Easter Day – Pentecost

Red: Pentecost

Green: Pentecost – All Saints Eve

Red: All Saints Day – Advent

Purple: Advent – 24th December