

# Woodside C of E Primary School



"Inquisitive minds, caring hands, praying hearts."

## Policy Statement on Collective Worship

Woodside C of E. Primary School is part of the BDMAT (Birmingham Diocese Multi Academy Trust) where Christianity is fundamental to every aspect of school life. We aim to promote the spiritual and moral development of children, and lay the foundations for them to have the opportunity to grow in the Christian faith.

A secure and loving environment provides children with knowledge and skills and the ability to use these both now and in later life. As a Church of England school, our worship is in accordance with the beliefs of the Church of England. Collective Worship takes place daily and reflects our Christian foundation. We plan worship to give children an experience which is uplifting and rooted in the core Christian values of the school; love, respect, hope, forgiveness and challenging injustice.

### Worship and Education

The 1998 Education Reform Act points to the importance of the spiritual in children's development. Worship is central to spiritual experience and it is a vital task that the school educates children about worship. Education in worship should be exploratory as well as affirming the beliefs that children hold and helping them to understand the Christian faith. Collective worship provides an 'open door' to reflect on God and an invitation to participate in songs, prayers and reflections. Children are encouraged to make their own responses to the worship, for example being invited to say their own 'amen' if they agree with prayers led from the front.

### Worship in School

In accordance with our Foundation, we support and encourage the teachings and practice of the Christian faith in regular acts of Collective worship. Children are given the opportunity to experience various forms of Christian worship.

We nurture a close relationship between the school and the local churches of St. Nicholas, Baddesley Ensor and All Saints at Grendon and we value the participation of the vicar/church member who leads and takes part in our worship on a regular basis. The 'Open the Book' team lead Collective Worship in school every week, enriching experiences of Bible stories for all the children by retelling and presenting the main Bible stories and themes over a three year programme. We include termly visits to Church to

celebrate the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter and keep the children fully informed of any church activities including 'Messy Church'.

Worship is given a high priority and follows the unfolding of the church year (a three year programme is key to our planning). The changing needs of the children as they progress through the school are also taken into account.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish, and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. Please speak to the Headteacher in the first instance if you have any concerns about worship in school.

### **Spirituality**

We promote spirituality across the curriculum, and this has been defined as 'Spirituality is the opening of hearts and minds, through reflection, and questioning of the world; which lifts the soul and makes the heart sing. For some, it will be experienced through faith and worship'.

### **Pattern of worship**

Collective Worship takes place between 9.00- 9.15am. Parents and members of the local community regularly join us; usually on Tuesday for Open the Book and Fridays for Celebration Collective Worship. The latter is often a little longer as it celebrates the children's achievements during the week. Special services take place at the end of the term and to mark Christian festivals and special occasions.

Each member of staff takes part in leading collective worship on a rota basis, usually on Wednesday. The Deputy Headteacher leads worship through song on Monday whilst the Headteacher leads Collective Worship on Thursday and Friday morning. Currently, a church member leads Collective Worship once a month, while we wait for the appointment of a new vicar.

Each of the classes leads worship at least once a year, and older groups of children regularly contribute to Collective Worship by performing short pieces of drama, and/or reading prayers they have written. Members of the Worship Committee prepare for each Collective Worship by setting the worship table and two year 6 children operate the music system and computer.

The Friday collective worship includes celebrations of achievement with the distribution of:-

- Merit badges for individual housepoints
- Individual bronze, silver and gold housepoint awards
- Headteacher awards for each year group, for children we are particularly proud of
- Weekly attendance awards
- Certificates for learning and for good behaviour.
- Sports awards
- Writing wall certificates and
- Pen licences.

Special collective worship celebrations are held for the festivals of the Church year:- Harvest, Christmas and Easter and the Year 6 Leaver's Service. Key stage 1 children take part each year in "Experience Christmas" held alternatively at St Nicholas and All Saints Church where children take part in a dramatic retelling of the Nativity Story. Children and families take part in Palm Sunday processions and at Advent, the Lantern Walk through the village. We often invite the members of the community to join us; for example, for the Infant Christmas play, and the KS2 Christmas concert in the church. In the summer term an annual end of year service is also held in St Nicholas Church.

### **Monitoring Worship**

A record of themes of worship is on display in the staff room. The worship committee reviews the feedback from collective worship and works to make improvements. A Collective Worship folder forms a record of worship in school.

### **Music**

We have a collection of CDs with a variety of hymns and songs. These include songs from the BBC Come and Worship, and we also use the worship workshop website.

### **Summary**

At Woodside C of E school we aim to:

- Draw examples from Christian liturgical worship
- Incorporate examples of Christian worship appropriate to the children's ages and understanding
- Provide opportunities for all children to take part in worship
- Be properly prepared. Teachers are encouraged to follow up worship when appropriate
- Help children to understand why people worship and how worship is rooted in the school core Christian values.
- Provide examples of beliefs from other faiths

Reviewed November 2019

Headteacher