St. Wilfrid’s CE Primary School

Christian Vision

We desire to reduce and remove barriers for all, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to thrive and flourish personally, academically, professionally and spiritually, whilst also contributing to our community as a whole. Where barriers are removed and opportunities provided, with God’s guidance and clear Christian values, aspiration holds no bounds.

*‘'Working together as one'...'with God, ALL things are possible'*

*Matthew 19:26’*

Collective Worship Policy

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| Date policy last reviewed: | 10 July 2024 |

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| Signed by: | | | |
| S Brereton | Headteacher | Date: | 10 July 2024 |
| J Belton | Chair of governors | Date: | 10 July 2024 |

'Working together as one'...'with God, ALL things are possible' *Matthew 19:26*

*‘When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’***Matthew 19: 25-28**

**Our Vision**

We desire to reduce and remove barriers for all, ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to thrive and flourish personally, academically, professionally and spiritually, whilst also contributing to our community as a whole. Where barriers are removed and opportunities provided, with God’s guidance and clear Christian values, aspiration holds no bounds.

**Our Core Christian Values Linked to our Mission Statement**

**Our core Christian values are embedded in Christian scripture and lived in the daily practice at St. Wilfrid's**

Working together as one – Friendship and Respect

Friendship: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing'

Respect: 1 Peter 2:17 'Show proper respect to everyone'

With God – Service and Justice

Service: Romans 15:17 'Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God'

Justice: Psalms 103:6 'The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed'

All things are possible – Courage and Perseverance

Courage: Ezra 10:4 'Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it'

Perseverance: Revelation 2:19 'I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance'

**Introduction**

At St. Wilfrid’s we believe that all children should recognise a range of ways in which we worship as Christians.

**Rationale**

Collective Worship at St. Wilfrid’s has a purpose for each of us: staff and children.

* To grow in awareness and consciousness of the presence of Christ in:
  + our own lives;
  + the lives of those close to us;
  + the lives of those in our community;
  + the life all around us and beyond us.
* To express gratitude and thanks
* To learn how to practise the values of Christianity in our daily lives and
* To develop spiritually as we reflect on larger questions, and become courageous advocates as global citizens connected to the communities around us in order to make a difference.

**Legal requirements within a church school**

Collective worship is a requirement in school, and is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Its value is affirmed in a church school through commitment to the whole school’s daily experience. It is for all registered children (of statutory school age) and may be organised in groups or as school requires.

However, children may be withdrawn by parents from collective worship; they may be physically present but not actually take part in it. Although parents are not obliged to explain their reasoning to the Headteacher, it may be helpful in establishing which elements of collective worship have objections.

Where a child is withdrawn from collective worship, they may use this time according to their particular faith or denomination as long as:

* No extra cost is incurred to school;
* The effect is not that denominational worship replaces statutory non-denominational collective worship;
* Alternative provision is consistent with the overall purposes of school curriculum in the 1988 Education Act.

The School Teacher’s Pay and Conditions document states that all teachers attend school assemblies – this duty is subject to teacher’s freedom not to attend collective worship.

Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of broadly Christian character and reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

School worship is collective rather than corporate, in that not all participants will be united in membership of any faith community.

As a church school, we have a right to keep our collective worship wholly within the boundaries of Christian character and belief in line with the principles and practices of the Church of England; but we would wish to consider the aptitudes, interests and backgrounds of all children in our school, in the way we present acts of collective worship, so that the integrity of individuals is maintained and is inclusive.

**Organisation and Implementation**

St. Wilfrid’s aims to provide every child with the opportunity to worship in their own way and to guide them in using the Christian values.

All registered pupils take part in an act of collective worship daily in the school hall.

The daily act of collective worship is conducted in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Pupils are grouped according to age, with EYFS and KS1 forming the first group, and KS2 forming the second. Though the theme of the collective worship sessions remains the same for each group, the pitch and level of technicality can be adapted to age range through the use of this structure. This ensures that there is suitable progression in the level of questioning, supporting development in understanding, spirituality and self-reflection.

Collective worship includes celebration, singing, Biblical references, storytelling, core Christian values and reflection.

Governors are consulted on the collective worship structure and progression.

**Gathering** - Pupils enter the school hall in silence, to gentle, welcoming music. A bible verse linking to the collective worship theme is displayed on the board. In the children's presence, the candle is then lit. The children are then greeted with 'Grace, mercy and peace be with you', to which they respond, 'and also with you'.

**Engaging** - Pupils are presented with an image or question that requires a response. Where the focus of the collective worship is familiar, children are asked to recall key information previously discussed. Where a story or concept has been previously discussed, the level of questioning becomes more developed, including a greater depth of reflection and reference to 'big questions', extended further for the older year groups. Those presenting collective worship speak from memory and make links to their personal experiences, or the personal experiences of the children present. Children are selected to participate in the worship sessions, including modelling or role play as relevant. Visuals such as photos and videos are also used to secure engagement.

**Responding** - Children are given the opportunity to respond to questions verbally, or to think of an answer in their heads. Children are often given a range of possible responses to which they can raise their hands in agreement. When a visual is displayed, children are asked to raise their hand in response when they see a key element. Other adults are also asked to identify children who may seek to respond to ensure that wide array of abilities and ages are given the opportunity to respond. Children are encouraged to respond using actions and, during Bible stories or at the end of stories with hidden messages, are asked to identify what happens next. Children also respond through song, silence and applause as appropriate.

Year 6 worship champions visit target classes each morning to gather their responses to collective worship sessions, including any big questions, key thoughts or reflections

**Sending** - Collective worship sessions conclude by allowing the children a moment to reflect on the themes discussed that day/ week. A question is posed that allows the children to consider their actions, thoughts and responsibilities in relation to the areas discussed. At times, the question posed is in preparation for the following collective worship session, and is something that will be revisited at the beginning of the following worship session. A closing prayer is shared, before the pupils show their readiness to return to their classrooms. Children are reminded that any further thoughts can be written and placed in the communal 'Our thoughts and ideas' box in the school hall.

**Roles and responsibilities**

The RE and Collective Worship lead (headteacher) plans and prepares the themes and objectives for collective worship, alongside the deputy headteacher. This policy is overseen by the Governing Body.

**Inclusion**

All children, staff, parents, governors, parishioners and community members are all considered whenever events are planned. All children are invited to pray in the way they wish to pray.

**Links with other policies**

RE policy

Equality statement

Mental Health and Well-being policy