



Wraxall Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship

**Policy Approved by Governors:
Authorised for Issue: March 2021
To next be reviewed: March 2022**

Our School Vision

Picture a school at the heart of the community, surrounded by nature and where the children can't wait to arrive in the morning because they know that they will experience the excitement and joy of learning.

Picture a school where the children are *inspired* to aim high and believe that their dreams are achievable because they will have developed the skills and knowledge needed. They have the confidence to challenge themselves because they know that their mistakes will only make them stronger. They will flourish and become all that they aspire to be.

Picture a school where the children are *nurtured* to be the best that they can be. They know that school is a safe and inclusive place because they have seen that all are welcomed and cared for. They will show compassion in all that they do and will make society a kinder place for all.

Picture a school where the children are celebrated for being unique individuals who together form a strong and united team. They become active and creative citizens who will *achieve* amazing things throughout their lives and develop a better future for all.

Picture Wraxall Church of England Primary School – *Inspiring, Nurturing, Achieving*

Our School Vision Statement takes as its starting point the following model developed by the Church of England and the Church in Wales:

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.'

The school vision also reflects the Church of England's Vision for Education and supports the promotion of Christian values. Our vision is based around elements of 'The Parable of the Sower'.

"The seeds sown in good soil" Mark 4: 13-20

In our school we follow our values to help us to show compassion towards others and our world. When we demonstrated our values, we are helping our school to grow and flourish and enabling our community to live "life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Our School Christian Values

Our School's Christian Values are demonstrated in all that we do and say

***Compassion * Responsibility * Respect * Perseverance * Friendship * Honesty * Courage**

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision – Presented on the Previous Page of this Policy

We are a welcoming and inclusive family with a strong Christian ethos. In our school our vision shapes all we do.

Collective worship should be 'a rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus for all that is good and worthy of celebration' (Bath and Wells Diocese), in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the Trust Deed of the Scholl. It should enrich the lives of all within the school community, reflecting the words of John 10:10 'That they may have life in all their fullness'.

Policy Statement

At Wraxall school we believe the daily act of Collective worship is an integral and important part of school life through which every child and adult can explore the School's vision and shared Christian values enabling them to grow into responsible, compassionate and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live.

A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The experience, beliefs and values of each of our families is very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and children. This means that Collective worship is different from a corporate act of worship in a church where for Christians, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

At Wraxall School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and aims to lead people to a threshold where they can encounter worship, and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, and an experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity through sign and symbols. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian and other Faith calendars. Children will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all children, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.

The Local Governing Body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher. At Wraxall we have an Ethos committee which currently meets termly. The members may include headteacher, the teacher with responsibility for RE, Foundation Governor(s) and other governor(s), a representative of the Parish and a child to represent each class.

The Right of withdrawal

At Wraxall there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at Wraxall aims to:

- Be inclusive
- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support children and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be a central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and Christian faith.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the Christian belief in the presence, love and peace of God. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support children in developing their understanding of the Christian concept of the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with the Biblical narrative, signs, symbols and language that reflect the church calendar and relate this to their daily living.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Children will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to help children understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teaching of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Children's personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website and in newsletters.

How Collective worship is organised

We hold a daily act of collective worship. As stated by the Bath and Wells Diocese, it is 'the entitlement of all children and should happen daily'. Worship will normally be 15-20 minutes. The normal pattern for this is:

Monday: Whole School led by Clergy (Hall)

Tuesday: Whole School Singing with prayer/reflection led by Music (Hall)

Wednesday: Whole School led by the Headteacher, other member of staff or visiting speaker (Hall)

Thursday: Class Worship around our Christian Value

Friday: celebrations led by the Headteacher or other member of SLT with a focus on celebration. (Hall)

Each year we have a number of Church services and other whole school occasions where parents can join us. These include:

- Welcoming service
- Harvest
- Remembrance
- Christmas
- Easter Christingle
- Leavers Service
- Wells Cathedral Visits

Individual Classes also visit church regularly as part of the RE curriculum.

The school community is always invited to attend the ATTIC services at All Saints Church and often take an active role.

Planning and Preparation

Each term a detailed worship calendar is compiled linking the Christian calendar, school Christian Values, British Values, PSHE and creative curriculum and with the parishes Children's work programme. This is done in collaboration in with the clergy of All Saints Church, the Headteacher and Worship lead.

Careful thought is given to creating an appropriate atmosphere.

Acts of Collective Worship follow a recognisable format with some patterns which are familiar e.g. greeting at the beginning.

In almost all acts of Collective Worship there will be songs which wherever possible will relate to the theme.

There is usually a quiet time for reflection or a prayer. We use a range of prayers from a variety of resources including children's written or improvised prayers. Children will be encouraged to join in and to say Amen if they wish to.

Children's involvement and leadership are key to engagement and children actively plan and take part in whole school worship events. It is important at Wraxall that all children should feel able to contribute and lead whole school and class collective worship.

Teachings within whole school Collective Worship are then considered through discussions in class collective worship, enabling children to further extend their thinking and children are challenged and supported to continue to explore how times can impact on the way they live their lives.

Children in EYFS gradually join with whole school events and collective worship.

We believe that collective Worship should also be a time when we as a community are able to reflect on the achievements and learning of the children. This provides an opportunity to reward children for the achievements both in and outside of school. It also plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

Resources and Professional Learning

The school has a copy of Roots and Shoots (funded by church) which is a key resource for our Collective Worship. Other resources are available online for staff e.g www.fischy.com. Each class has a copy of the Lion Storyteller Bible (funded by church). Our resources also include books, cross, candles, pebbles and other artefacts and a noticeboard in the hall which records our Worship for each term. When becoming permanent members of staff at Wraxall teachers attend training on Church School Ethos at the Diocese. We also regularly include Collective worship as part of our Professional Learning Programme.

The school resources are available from school and church for collective worship and this enables up to date resources to be used.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the duty of the Headteacher and the Governors of Wraxall. Evaluations of series of acts of worship are carried out on a regular basis by clergy, staff and members of the school council using a proforma from Roots and Shoots.

Conclusion

Collective worship is central to and enriches the life of the school community at Wraxall CE Primary School. It is a time where teachers and children may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review: May 2021

Headteacher signed: Amy Townsend

Date: May 2021

Chair of Governors signed: Jessica Vallentine

Date: May 2021