



*We aim to be the school of choice for our community.  
Through living our Christian values, everyone at WCEJS has the opportunity to flourish.  
We nurture the curiosity to learn, the courage to lead and the compassion to care.  
Building solid foundations (Matthew 7: 24-27)*

## Collective Worship Policy

**Date of review: As required**

### Legal Requirements

Wendover CE Junior School has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.' In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.

### Rationale

Wendover CE Junior School is a Voluntary controlled, Church of England, non-selective school. As such we are subject to the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1993, as outlined in Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and Collective Worship".

Collective Worship in Wendover CE Junior School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes (Circular 1/94 paragraph 50). We believe that worship should always be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

### Aims

At Wendover CE Junior School, Collective Worship is central in the life of the school, and it aims to:

- Strengthen and support the school community through exploring our vision, virtues and values
- Celebrate each unique individual member who was made in God's image
- Help everyone grow spiritually through reflecting on the teachings of Jesus Christ and other significant individuals
- Help children experience: a range of faiths and beliefs; enjoyable activities that explore our message; a sense of awe and wonder, giving thanks to God; time to reflect and pray so that they may become closer to God
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism, helping pupils to understand the nature and purpose of worship

### 1 Organisation & Content

- 1.1 Collective Worship is held every day. We create a respectful atmosphere by encouraging children to be quiet and reflective before, during, and after Collective Worship. Worship is held at St Mary's Church at various points in the year, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and for the final blessing in the summer term.
- 1.2 Worship Leaders are chosen each year (two per class); they help to plan, deliver and evaluate collective worship.
- 1.3 The majority of worship will be focussed on the teachings of Christ and will use the bible as a reference. Children will learn about the Holy Trinity and how God the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit are important to Christians. They will be given opportunities to develop spiritually through the use of reflection and consideration of a key question concerning the topic of worship (weekly reflection time is given so that everyone is able to consider the four aspects of our spiritual model – self, others, the world and beyond).
- 1.4 We have a simple liturgy that reflects Anglican heritage:
  - **We gather:** *In our collective acts of worship everyone is welcomed and we begin by inviting everyone to respond to a statement (for example: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you); we light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Our gathering is also expressed through song.*
  - **We share the Word:** *We share stories from the Bible and other mainstream faiths. Our vision and values are explored through these stories. We learn about the Church calendar or other national / international events.*
  - **We reflect:** *Time is given to think deeply about the theme, a challenge or a question; sometimes, we invite everyone to share their thinking with each other*
  - **We respond:** *Everyone is encouraged to apply what we have explored to everyday life.*
  - **We pray:** *Use of extemporary prayer and/or the Lord's Prayer brings our collective worship to a close.*

### 2 Leadership of Collective Worship

- 2.1 Worship may be led by a member of staff, Worship Leaders and / or a visiting speaker
- 2.2 We have rota for weekly collective worship:

## Wendover CE Junior School

- Monday – whole school led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday – Minister, Lay Preacher or visitor
- Wednesday – Key Stage
- Thursday – Weekly Refection in class
- Friday – Celebration

2.3 All leaders are aware of our liturgy and the quality of worship is monitored and evaluated to ensure consistency

### **3 Monitoring and Evaluation**

3.1 Worship is evaluated by leaders and by the Worship Leaders throughout the year.

3.2 Evaluations are carried out each half-term and include pupils voice; this help to further improve worship opportunities

3.3 The evaluation form in appendix A may be used as a tool for evaluation

### **4 Resources**

4.1 Written resources are kept in the hall cupboard along with resources for the worship table.

4.2 Powerpoint presentations are stored on the school network: teachers share:\Collective Worship

4.3 Songs are stored on the school network: teachers share:\Collective Worship

### **5 Right of Withdrawal**

5.1 The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1993 reaffirms parents' rights established in the 1944 Education Act to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish. The act of collective worship in a LA maintained, voluntary controlled or academy school cannot be a condition of school attendance. If a parent wishes their child to be excused wholly or partly from an act of worship then the school must comply, parents do not have to state their reasons. The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from collective worship. Further guidance is given in Circular 1/94 paragraph 85/87.

5.2 All teachers also have the right not to participate in Collective Worship.

5.3 At Wendover CE Junior School, we ask for written notice of the parents' desire to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, addressed to the Headteacher. Children will be provided with supervision, but will not be given extra work to complete, in addition to what they have already been set by their class teacher.

# Our Model for Spiritual Growth



## **Self**

Awareness of feelings (reflect & share); awareness of our own uniqueness (happy with who we are); gratitude; personal faith; imagination & creativity.

## **Others**

Empathy and understanding (respect & tolerance); to love and be loved; making a difference (responsibility).

## **Our World**

Developing a sense of awe & wonder (miracles of everyday life); time for important things; appreciation of art, music, nature etc.

## **Beyond**

Experiencing God / faith; big questions (life, death, suffering, God); opportunities for reflection & prayer; making sense of the world.

# A Model for Spirituality

	<h2>Windows</h2> <p>We look at our world or experience something new</p>
	<h2>Mirrors</h2> <p>We reflect on this, thinking deeply about our feelings and thoughts</p>
	<h2>Doors</h2> <p>We act in a positive way to help improve the human condition and environment</p>
	<h2>Candle</h2> <p>We think about God, faith, life and bigger questions, being thankful for our blessings</p>

# Wendover CE Junior School

## Appendix A – Evaluation Form for Collective Worship

### Groups Present:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Leader:</b>
<b>Theme</b>		
<b>Purpose and Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Was the purpose of the act of worship clear to all present?</i></li><li>• <i>Was the theme developed effectively?</i></li><li>• <i>Were visual aids or different elements used in presentation?</i></li><li>• <i>Was worship integral to the school day?</i></li><li>• <i>Was the act of worship conducted at an appropriate pace?</i></li><li>• <i>Was visual art used or children's creative work shown and celebrated?</i></li></ul>		
<b>Atmosphere</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Was there a sense of order on entering and leaving?</i></li><li>• <i>Were candles, flowers, a cross or other visual focus used?</i></li><li>• <i>Was there a relaxed, secure atmosphere?</i></li><li>• <i>Did the leader contribute to the atmosphere with language, attitude and tone?</i></li><li>• <i>Is there a distinction between the assembly and an act of worship?</i></li><li>• <i>Was there a balance of music, speech and silence?</i></li></ul>		
<b>Spiritual Dimension</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Could this act of collective worship have contributed to the spiritual and moral development of individuals?</i></li><li>• <i>Were there opportunities for prayer/reflection/quiet? How were they used?</i></li></ul>		
<b>Integrity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Was there a sense of respect for individuals?</i></li><li>• <i>Was there openness, or compulsion, in invitations to pray or sing?</i></li><li>• <i>Did the occasion engender ease or discomfort among the participants?</i></li><li>• <i>Were the words of songs or hymns appropriate for the pupils and the theme?</i></li></ul>		

## Wendover CE Junior School

### **Pupil/Student Involvement**

- *How wide was the age range?*
- *Was the delivery appropriate for the interests, background, ability and age range of pupils?*
- *Were the pupils engaged and well motivated?*

### **Staff**

- *Were teachers present (how many?) or was this seen as non-contact time?  
Were they involved or spectators?*

### **Parents, Governors, Visitors, Clergy**

- *Were any parents, governors or visitors present?*
- *If so, what role did they play?*
- *Were links with the local church referred to?*
- *If a visitor led the worship: was it evident that the briefing has been adequate?*
- *Was the visitor introduced properly?*
- *Was the visitor's contribution appropriate in content?*
- *Were the concepts and language used appropriate to the children present?*

### **Close**

- *Was the timing good?*
- *Did the occasion clarify and affirm the values for which the school stands?*
- *Did it offer pupils/adults something to think about and take into the life of the school?*

### **Additional points for future development**

**Overall, how would you rate this act of worship?**