

# 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 Heartwood Academy Trust and is a voluntary aided Church of England Primary School 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 voluntary aided 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 and 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 invited 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 Rev. Roger Chamberlain 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 all 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 key to our planning.

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.

### **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, Thursday with Rev Roger and Fridays for Celebration Collective Worship. The latter is often a little longer as it celebrates the children's achievements during the week. Rev. Roger's collective worship includes the blessing of any prayers which the children have written 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 takes the Collective Worship on Friday mornings.

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. Two Y6 assembly monitors prepare for each Collective Worship by setting the worship table and operating the music system and computer.

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

- Merit badges for individual housepoints
- Bronze, silver and gold housepoint awards
- Headteacher awards for each year group for children we are particularly proud of
- Weekly attendance awards and
- Certificates for learning and for good behaviour.

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 Spring Term an annual School 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 is available in the school entrance and 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 2016

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Headteacher