

## WENTWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL



### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

***To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.***

***William Temple (1881-1894)***

#### **Introduction**

Wentworth is a Church of England Junior and Infant School. Collective Worship is therefore an important part of the day as it gives us the opportunity to come together to:

- explore and respond to a variety of forms of Christian worship
- encounter the key elements of Christian faith including the particular Christian understanding of God in their own lives and in the world
- be introduced to some key Christian stories, prayers, hymns and songs
- celebrate Christian festivals
- approach the threshold of worship by fostering awe, wonder, reverence, appreciation
- encounter spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life and to consider possible Christian responses
- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the academy and the wider community
- find a means of expressing their own spirituality and value the spirituality of others
- celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole or to the wider community
- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity
- be still, respond and reflect
- experience something special, separate from ordinary activities.

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### Collective Worship and the Law

Church of England Schools in the diocese must fulfil the legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

*“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”*

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Arrangements for collective worship are made by Wentworths’ Governing Body, after consultation with the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that requirements are met.

### Delivery

The experience of collective worship as a quality activity is a vital part of the distinctiveness of Wentworth Church of England J and I School. It is one way in which pupils can be helped to encounter a “living faith”. It should be appropriate to the ages and aptitudes of the pupils.

Pupils at Wentworth may come from any of the following backgrounds:-

- those who have, or have come from families with, Christian commitment,
- families who have chosen the School because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith and who like the ethos of the school,
- families from other faith communities,
- families who may not share in any particular religious belief.

School worship must therefore be sensitive to this in order to be meaningful. Whilst the Christian content is explicit, the overall pattern is *collective* rather than *corporate*. Shared beliefs and values cannot be assumed.

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### Planning

1. Collective worship is based on themes and includes the main festivals and parts of the church year.
  - Staff then plan individual sessions based on the theme.

In planning for Collective worship we intend to:

- provide opportunities for individual response and reflection, based around our 6 school values of Thoughtfulness, Sharing, Trust, Self-Control, Forgiveness and Caring ( including amazement, wonder, sadness, delight in life, excitement, awe , peace, challenge, togetherness)
- encourage pupil involvement in a range of activities to express spirituality (including story, music, dance, drama, poetry, questioning, prayer, art, prose, purposeful silence)
- promote inclusion so that those who wish to join in may do so, and those whose commitment is less or different may watch, listen and learn
- provide worship that is of educational value by proper planning, preparation, content and evaluation with continuity and progression using a variety of presentations
- provide opportunities for participation in a range of activities which enable pupils to express spirituality, giving pupils the opportunity to respond at their own level
- establish an atmosphere which is conducive to worship
- ensure that leaders of worship always invite and never coerce.
- invite individual response and reflection
- provide opportunities for listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others
- introduce the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs.
- • share in experiences of e.g. sadness, fun, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge
- provide purposeful opportunities for silence, stillness, meditation, contemplation and prayer

### Pupil Participation

Participation is encouraged to help pupils engage with the worship. Aids to participation may include:

- involving pupils in a presentation or as “helpers” to support the leader
- asking pupils to perform actions e.g. clap, hold hands, join in an action song
- responding to a simple liturgy
- providing something to listen to, particularly music
- opportunities to join in singing and prayers
- providing a visual focus e.g. candle, flowers, picture, display, OHP, object
- lighting or snuffing out of a candle
- planning some classroom based Collective Worship sessions

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Collective Worship is reviewed annually.

A group is convened consisting of pupils, teaching and non teaching staff, governors, clergy and the Head Teacher to discuss and evaluate worship. They also offer suggestions for improvement or ideas for future themes.

**Special Educational Needs**

Children with SEN will participate in all aspects of collective worship, including those times when pupils prepare and deliver them.

**Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Rotherham Diocesan Guidelines.*

**Effective Date**

This policy became effective in summer 2014, will reviewed in summer 2016.