



Wootey Infant School Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility: Curriculum Committee

Reviewed by: Curriculum Committee

This Review: January 2025

Next Review Due: January 2028

Cycle: 3 years

At Wootey Infant School we follow the requirements of the County and 1998 Education Reform Act.

- The school provides a daily act of worship.
- All children participate in collective worship.
- Most acts of collective worship reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Purpose

"Our collective worship offers pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community; and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them. Collective worship also offers an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth.

If collective worship is genuinely to stimulate reflection and growth, it needs to involve all members of the community. This involvement requires planning and it is important that schools can demonstrate precisely how collective worship has been planned to promote spiritual and moral development within the framework of the law."

(National Curriculum Council Spiritual and Moral Development - a discussion paper April 1993)

The school interprets broadly Christian as including the following:

- Secular stories with a Christian theme.
- Suitable Bible stories.
- Christian festivals and celebrations.
- Christian symbols/artefacts.

Most collective worship is broadly Christian however children are also introduced to:

- Aspects of other religious traditions in order to celebrate cultural diversity.
- Moral social values appropriate to their age.
- Experiences which highlight spiritual awareness.
- Celebrating the life of Wootey Infant School.

Aims

- To provide opportunities for worship in a variety of ways.
- To develop a sense of spiritual awareness.
- To provide opportunities to celebrate and share together.
- To provide a space of time that is special and important within each school day.
- To create an atmosphere in which children can reflect and respond with a sense of reverence.
- To reflect the ethos of Wootey Infant School as a community.

In order to provide a variety of experiences, collective worship can include any of the following elements:

Discussion/ reflection
Storytelling
Readings (story, poetry, biography, prayer etc.)
Drama/role play
Music/songs
Poems
Children's work
Artefacts
Videos
Pictures
Children's own experiences

Organisation

The school has an annual programme of planned themes. These are linked to My Happy Mind (our PSHE curriculum). We focus on a core value each half term and links are

made to this during Collective Worship. Special mentions during Celebration assembly are also linked to the week's core value wherever possible.

Governors lead the REACH Award assembly at the end of each term.

Every class to lead an assembly celebrating their learning once a term.

There are a variety of presenters who may include:

- Children (individual, small groups and classes)
- Teaching staff, non-teaching staff and Governors
- Parents and friends of the school
- Representatives of local religious communities and other visitors.

Day	Organisation	Leader
Monday	Whole school - weekly theme	Deputy Head
Tuesday	Class/Year Group - weekly theme	Class Teacher
Wednesday	Class/Year Group - weekly theme	Class Teacher
Thursday	Class/Year Group - weekly theme	Class Teacher
Friday	Celebration Assembly - special mentions, medals, certificates	Deputy Head/Headteacher

Atmosphere

On every occasion that collective worship takes place we aim to offer a time of quiet reflection, opportunities to respond in an atmosphere of reverence.

We aim to create an appropriate atmosphere through:

- playing suitable music when entering and leaving the hall (this is linked to the weekly theme)
- Using a focal point e.g. candle, poster, flowers, in whole school and Family Group assemblies.
- Marking a special time for worship e.g. by lighting a candle, saying a prayer, repeating or reciting a response, meditation, silence or stillness
- Appropriate seating arrangements.

Right to Withdraw

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of or all of collective worship. Children may be withdrawn following discussions with the headteacher.
- Alternative arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn.