



**St. Wilfrid's
Church of England
Primary Academy**

Executive Headteacher: Mr S. Colothan



Collective Worship Policy 2026

Draft

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

Phillipians 4:13

Our Christian Vision

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13



1. Our **children** will be rooted in strong faith and academic foundations to thrive and succeed, knowing that Jesus is with them, every step of their journey.
2. Our **staff** will have the highest expectations and aspirations for our children, knowing that together, we can achieve anything through Christ.
3. Our **school** will be a place where children can grow in strength, to be unique and flourish in the presence of God.



at St Wilfrid's we can

Our Mission Statement

We will ensure that our children **achieve** exceptionally well.

We will nurture our children to **believe** in themselves and each other.

We will create a culture of love, **care** and respect for one another.

At St. Wilfrid's, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

Our Aims

1. To provide a distinctly Christian ethos, underpinned by our Christian Values and Scripture, where children can grow spiritually and become reflective decision-makers.
2. To provide a 'literacy-rich' curriculum of the highest quality, that engages and challenges all children in our school community.
3. To provide an environment that excites and stimulates learning, fosters personal growth and responds to the individual needs of all children.
4. To provide a rich and broad education, with enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities, and unique experiences, that prepare our children socially and mentally for their future.

Our Christian Values

Our Christian Values, which are rooted in scripture, are threaded through our school, our decision making and everything that we do.

Love is at the heart of our Christian Values and all members of our school community aim to 'live out' our Christian Values in our actions and choices.



Fundamentals

St Wilfrid's Primary Academy is a Voluntary Aided school. Collective worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England.

At St. Wilfrid's Church of England Primary Academy our School Christian Vision is:

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

We want our children to be rooted in strong faith and academic foundations to thrive and succeed, knowing that Jesus is with them, every step of their journey. We have the highest expectations and aspirations for our children, knowing that together, we can achieve anything through Christ. St. Wilfrid's is a place where children can grow in strength, to be unique and flourish in the presence of God.

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 St. Wilfrid's Standish.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England. Use will be made within the provisions of the Education acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.

Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our School's Christian Vision through our Mission Statement and the aims of the school, and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school. Collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, and our school community enjoys worshipping together daily. Worship is carefully planned and structured termly by Clergy and School Leaders.

Collective worship is central to the life of our school; an integral and uplifting part of the school day, where children and adults can flourish spiritually and the Governors see it as an essential part of all children's education. All members of our school family are welcome to worship and are valued. Worship at St. Wilfrid's is fully inclusive, embraces diversity and creates a sense of belonging; it is an opening and inviting space where everyone is encouraged to engage at their own level; and highly inspirational, sparking curiosity, awe and wonder, and motivates personal growth and reflection.

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as

drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them.

These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

Guiding Principles:

Worship at St. Wilfrid's is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inclusive: Worship accessible for all children and staff, whether or not they are Christian. It is wide-ranging and varied in style. Our use of music and song includes a blend of traditional hymns and modern worship songs and music with many songs including actions. We discuss other faiths and worldviews as part of worship using our 'Global Spotlight'. This is a special time when we shine a light — like a torch — on a real story from another part of the world. It helps us learn about someone's life, culture, challenges, and dreams. Each story we explore is just one person's experience — not the whole picture of that country. It's important to remember that people's lives are all different, even if they live in the same place.

We use a platform called Lyfta to explore these stories. Lyfta shares powerful, real-life experiences through short films helping us understand and connect with people around the globe. It helps us build empathy, celebrate diversity, and think about how we can be kind, thoughtful global citizens.

Invitational: We use language carefully in collective worship to ensure it is both invitational and welcoming. We support children to engage with worship in their own way, listening, joining in, or quietly observing and allowing time for personal reflection. Children and adults are only invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way.

Inspiring: We want worship to encourage thought and action beyond the moment, for children to walk away from worship with fresh energy and a renewed motivation to do good (so that they know they can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me and that God is with them'). Through worship children are encouraged to connect Christian values to real-life

global contexts and become courageous advocates of others. Worship is a joyful celebration. We hope every member of our school community experiences the profound joy that comes from connecting with God.

The links with local Churches.

We have a close link with the local church of St. Wilfrid's and the children lead regular Church Services at Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Mother's Day, Palm Praise, Easter Praise and an end of year celebration. Some year groups will take part in Eucharist services following confirmation. The Clergy attend school on a weekly basis to lead worship. We take children to other churches within the Diocese to take part in the Year 6 Leavers Celebration Service. Additionally, we use the church as a resource within RE lessons and across the curriculum and endeavour to take the children to other churches within the village to experience other types of churches. The church is a place which is inclusive for our children and their families.

Collective Worship and assembly.

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Structure of Worship, organisation and delivery

Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils and we try to deliver worship so that it has meaning and relevance to the individual age groups. Reflection books for each Key Stage reflect contributions from children. Worship is carefully planned and structured. School Leaders and Clergy meet routinely to plan each term's weekly worship themes and scriptures, reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church, and school community church services.

Each week, collective worship includes singing worship (Monday), themed worship and 'Global Spotlight' worship (Tuesday & Wednesday), clergy-led worship (Thursday) and 'Celebration and Aspirations' worship (Friday). Daily collective worship follows a liturgical flow of gather, engage, respond and send, includes: greeting, call to worship (we meet in the name of God), call and response (School Christian Vision), sharing of theme and scripture, hymn, the message, reflection, Prayer and Lord's Prayer, call and response (Trust Christian Vision) and The Grace. These arrangements are in place to ensure a purposeful, reflective and consistent approach to worship.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy and this policy is written to the most up to date Church of England guidance for its schools (version 18.5.21).

Development of Spirituality

At St. Wilfrid's, we believe that spirituality is within all of us, that we are all created in the image of God and valued for who we are. Spirituality is about the way we connect with ourselves (Me), others (You) the World around us and with God, through Love. Spiritual development is

nurtured within our daily collective worship. We encourage all children and adults to explore their spirituality and to flourish as individuals who live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Through collective worship, there are carefully planned opportunities for spiritual development, such as singing, prayer, moments of stillness, and reflection.

Responsibility for the policy

The collective worship policy has been written by the Senior Leadership Team who are the leads for worship. The Rector of St. Wilfrid's is the governor with responsibility for auditing the quality of worship and RE but other members of the governing body attend and evaluate worship.

Statement of broad aims

Collective worship in our school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Content and Approaches

The worship calendar is published termly on the school website. Worship is delivered each day in two separate halls; worship for Early Years and KS1 is held in the KS1 Hall and worship for children in KS2 is held in the KS2 hall. We want worship to be as great an opportunity to draw from Biblical texts and modern texts so that children can reflect on core Christian values and the shared values across the faiths represented in school. It may be adult led or child led.

Resources

We build upon the resources used in worship each year. Christian Ethos Team leaders work with the RE leads to develop reflection areas in classes and to suggest ways to improve worship in school. The RE and worship leaders attend all relevant Diocesan training to support and develop worship. Materials are purchased which will enrich the quality of worship for

children and their families. Children from the Christian Ethos Team and other children in school may also attend the Blackburn Diocese pupil collective worship conferences. Children additionally have the opportunity to experience worship in the Garden Chapel with their class and resources are purchased as appropriate.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

The Collective Worship team in co-ordination with the clergy, organise the termly plans for worship. The chosen values are developed through termly plans, incorporating the school Christian Values and scripture. Worship Reflection books are used to record contributions and children's reflections within worship. Worship plans are uploaded to the school website and shared with parents on termly Newsletters. The Christian Ethos Team contribute to worship. The Senior Leadership Team report to Governors on how the Christian Vision is lived out to Governors four times a year including reporting on and celebrating worship in school and in church.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an Aided school.

Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Worship in Church

Aided Schools

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated in this policy.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Policy Review

This Policy is reviewed every 3 years