

Winwick Church of England Primary School



Worship Policy

In God's love, aspire and achieve to be the best'

1 Corinthians 16:14 'Do everything in love.'

Written by R. Codd

Winwick Church of England School seeks to promote a stimulating and caring learning environment. An environment where children are encouraged to reach their full potential. This will be achieved through a broad and balanced curriculum, which has at its heart Christian beliefs and values. Through the curriculum we aim to raise the children's awareness of the world around them and to show concern for its people, their ways of thinking and living and for its resources. This solid foundation will be built upon to prepare children for the experiences and responsibilities they will meet throughout their lives. Winwick values the partnership of home, school, parish and community; as it is through this partnership that the best interests of the children will be served. Our children will, therefore, see their school as part of a wider community in which they are valued members.

The Nature of Collective Worship

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. "Collective Worship" refers to worship shared by the whole school/pupils/staff gathered together for a time of shared belonging. Prayer, praise, silence, a sense of community, common values, the power of the spoken word, ritual and many other experiences contribute to "Collective Worship". Entitlement The Education Reform Act 1988, which amended the worship provision of the 1944 Education Act, states there will be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which will be held on the school premises, except on special occasions when we, as a Church Aided School and with the permission of the governors, will worship in St Oswald's Church.

Parents have the right, under Section 9c of the Education Reform Act, to withdraw their child(ren) from collective worship. However, we consider it reasonable to assume that parents who send their children to Winwick are sympathetic to the Christian character of the school, as this permeates through that all we do.

Aims

Our aims are:

- to contribute to pupils' spiritual development, e.g.
 - experience what worship is and what people do when they worship
 - develop ability to meditate and use silence creatively
 - reflect on and think more deeply about important issues
 - celebrate all that is of value in life: truth, love, goodness, beauty, etc.
 - explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life, eg. suffering, loss, death and evil
 - express their concerns, hopes, joys, etc.
 - build up their relationship with God

- to introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England, e.g.
 - learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer
 - give pupils a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
 - learn to use church service books

- to gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, e.g.
 - explore Christian beliefs about God
 - learn about the place and significance of the Bible
 - learn about the significance of Jesus
 - share in Church life and Christian practice
 - celebrate the festivals and the Saints days of the church

- to explore and share the beliefs of others, e.g.
 - listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance
 - discover how believers from other faiths worship
 - celebrate values and attitudes shared with members of other faith communities

- to contribute to pupils' moral development, e.g.
 - develop ability to reflect on moral and social issues
 - appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
 - acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

- to contribute to the general development of pupils, e.g.
 - provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills
 - learn the skill of choral speaking
 - develop pupils' singing ability
 - participate in group preparation and presentation
 - develop resilience and awareness of well-being

- to celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God, e.g.

- celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
 - build up the sense of community of the school
 - develop and reflect on the values of the school
 - share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community
- to look out to the wider world, e.g.
- to take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
 - celebrate and give thanks for God's world.

Organisation and Delivery

Day	Worship
Monday	Whole School Worship lead by a member of Senior Leadership Team or a member of the clergy
Tuesday	Whole School Worship led by Open the Book Visitors
Wednesday (KS1 usually 10:15am, KS2 usually 3:00pm)	KS1 Worship led by a KS1 teacher on rotation KS2 Worship led by a KS2 teacher on rotation
Thursday	Class worship led by the class teacher in class. Classes from Year 3 to Year 6 each class attend a weekly worship at St Oswald's on a rota. Parents and members of the community are also invited to this weekly service.
Friday	Celebration Worship led by a member of Senior Leadership Team

Leaders

Worship is led by different leaders on different days and occasions, including the Headteacher, other staff members, Members of the Clergy and the children themselves. We warmly welcome visiting speakers into our Collective Worship. Charitable organisations often come to speak about their roles in society and the work they do. We also have 'Open the Book' from local churches into school to lead worship weekly.

Timing

Collective worship normally takes place at varying times in the school day depending upon the day and circumstances. The time chosen ensures that each class is ready for worship and has the time and opportunity to reflect and be closer to God.

Presentation

We engage the children (concentrate their thoughts, involve their feelings and emotions and encourage their physical participation) by asking questions, by asking them to perform actions (e.g. hold hands, clap, join in an action song, etc), by providing something to listen to (e.g. music) and by giving them the opportunities to sing and speak (e.g. a chorus or refrain). Prayers are chosen to fit into the value for the half term and children are also given the opportunity to write their own prayers to be shared with the school. In our acts of collective worship, we use different types of presentation to capture the children's interest and imagination. We try to achieve a balanced programme of worship, by means of prayers, hymns, stories and readings, songs, film clips, drama and periods of quiet meditation when thoughts are focused in a particular direction. There are times when the worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and other times it involves loud music, laughter and dance; a mixture which is creative and varied, joyful and reverent, penitent and spirit-filled.

We hope our collective worship provoke:

- feelings of gratitude for families, friends and health
- anger and bewilderment in the face of injustice and suffering
- awe and wonder at the beautiful mysteries in life
- grief and compassion at times of tragedy and hardship.
- children to become active members of their community and strive to be a global citizen to enhance the world we live in

Syllabus

Everything we do is based upon Christian Values and we follow the Church of England's syllabus "Values for Life". Alongside this we merge the PSHE Association Curriculum and have a three- year rolling programme to cover all the Values. We also ensure that Christian festivals are celebrated as well as other religious festivals too. Picture News is used as a resource to enhance our Class Worships and to encourage children to reflect on Christian Values in relation to real-world issues. We include our British Values schedule into our Worships to ensure our pupils are tolerant and respectful for all world religions.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Recording

Evaluation and monitoring of the collective worship takes place through a variety of methods including by members of staff, pupils and the RE Governor. We look to encourage a range of people to take part in the evaluation through thought bubbles although we are now trialling different types of evaluation. There are 4 reflections per week: Whole School Worship, Open The Book, Key Stage Worship and Class Worship. Reflections are done in Class Worship Big Books and through displays around school.

The class which attends worship weekly at Church writes up a reflection of the week's worship into their Class Worship Book. This ensures that there is a record and reflection of all worships over the course of the academic year.

Records of the collective worship themes, resources used, hymns sung, and the format of the worship are kept by the RE & Worship Lead.

Collective Worship and School Ethos

Fundamental to the ethos of Winwick School is the knowledge that we are all made in the image of God and loved by Him, so every individual in our school community and in the wider community is valued and treated with respect. The collective worship on Friday incorporates a time of celebration of children's work, both celebration of excellence in absolute terms and a celebration of the achievement and effort involved in doing the best a child is capable of at a particular time. As well as the celebration of the achievement of academic goals, we also celebrate the achievement of learning attainments in all aspects of the life of a school. Also, alongside triumphs on the sports field, there is celebration of success in fund raising for charity, in making links with the local community and in demonstrating the attitudes & values towards others that we at Winwick wish to foster in line with our Christian ethos.

In addition, each child has a Values Passport, which is a record of different activities or tasks which they have completed, that demonstrate our School Christian Values. These can be tasks completed both in school and at home. The Values Passport enhances our partnership with parents and the community in promoting our school values in action throughout children's lives, in all environments.

We also feel the collaboration with the local church and community is essential in providing meaningful experiences for both our children and members of the community. To assist with this, we have an Ethos Team that meet weekly with a member of St Oswald's Church to discuss and act upon Worship ideas and events linked to our Christian Values from different classes and members of staff. Children from Year 2 to 6 have two Ethos Team representatives that feedback information from their peers and pursue projects both in school and within the community.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to work in partnership with the school to support their child's moral and spiritual development. Parents are invited to all services, particularly the ones held in Church, which are held on a half-termly basis. Celebration collective worship is held every week on a Friday. Additionally, each academic year, each class invites parents into school to join in a Class Worship based on their Class Value or value that half term.

Headteacher: Mrs S Dymond

RE and Worship Lead: Miss R Codd