



*Learning and growing together within the love of God*

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY & GUIDELINES      February 2016**

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**Legal Requirements**

The Education Reform Act of 1988 introduced new requirements for Collective Worship in maintained schools. The basic requirements for Collective Worship are as prescribed in the Education Act of 1944 but the nature of what is required and the machinery for dealing with Collective Worship are modified.

In Voluntary Aided Schools the Governors have the responsibility for the worship provision, with support from the Head and the Collective Worship Coordinator.

**Aims**

As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, our principle aims for collective Worship are:

- To underpin the Christian character of Wenlock School.
- To reflect the mission statement of the school: 'Learning and growing together within the love of God.'
- To nurture the children in the Christian faith by providing opportunities to worship God, while being respectful of other faiths (and none) that make up the school community.
- To create a sense of school identity, of belonging to a community, which shares experiences and has a common set of Christian, British and human values.
- To celebrate the achievements and talents of the school community.
- To show the children that we are members of a wider multi-faith community and so to encourage respect and caring concern for others in society.
- To provide children and staff with a time to reflect upon: ideas; values; dimensions of human life; existence and the major issues of our world today.
- To reflect some of the practices and traditions of the Anglican community.
- To offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (see SMSCD policy).
- To provide opportunities for worship to be shared with governors, parents and the wider community.

**Responsibility for planning Collective Worship:**

The overall responsibility for collective worship is held by the governors who ensure the legal requirements for collective worship are met. The collective worship coordinator and the Head Teacher are responsible for the daily, weekly, yearly planning and content of collective worship.

At Wenlock, we encourage the local Anglican clergy to be involved to ensure that collective worship is reflective of the Anglican character of Wenlock School. Furthermore we encourage members of the wider community, and other clergy, to support our collective worship. As Wenlock School is multi-faith in make up; it is paramount that the organization of collective worship allows all present to be able to take part with integrity.

Collective Worship is planned and resourced by the Collective Worship coordinator. Wenlock follows a weekly pattern of:

- Monday Head Teacher led collective worship
- Tuesday Singing with reflection
- Wednesday Open the Book Bible Stories with drama.
- Thursday Staff led collective worship to reinforce the value of the month.
- Friday Celebration of the achievements of the children.

All acts of collective worship include an opportunity for reflection and prayer.

At various times in the year there are special gatherings to celebrate significant Christian festivals. These are led by year groups as shown below:

Year 3	Christmas
Year 4	Easter
Year 5	Ascension
Year 6	Harvest

Some of these celebrations take place at school and some at various churches within the local deanery.

Additionally the whole school participates in three other acts of collective worship which are held at St. Mary's Parish Church, namely the Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service and the Leavers' Service.

### **The Timing of Collective Worship:**

Collective Worship takes place between 8.55 and 9.15 every morning in the school hall.

### **Organisation and Content of Collective Worship:**

While each act of Collective Worship has its own characteristics, there is a commonality that will be found giving coherence to Collective Worship. These are as follows:

- The Gathering: music is played while the school gathers. This music can be a prayer, a chant or a suitable reflective piece.
- A greeting: at Wenlock we follow the Anglican Churches pattern of greeting, thus acknowledging the Christian calendar.
- Reflection and Thought for the week: to reinforce the value for that month; lighting the candle.
- Individual content of the collective worship: see above
- Song and Prayer: the prayers are led by the children.

At Wenlock there are many opportunities for children to take an individual part and contribute towards a communal presentation. These include the sharing of work and other achievements through individual, year group or class presentations, actively supporting the assembly leader, for example through drama and accompanying the singing as a musician. We encourage this sharing of our worship experiences and extend this to parents, friends and governors who are welcome to attend our class acts of collective worship and special services.

### **Resources**

The main resources for our worship are the people who lead them, the Head, teachers and children. From time to time we have visiting speakers, including our chair of Governors, local clergy and representatives from other local and national organizations.

Collective worship leaders are able to support their delivery using school resources such as religious story/poetry books, prayer books and artifacts.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship:**

Following on from the planning of collective worship, Wenlock has a practice of monitoring the delivery of collective worship by the governors, SLT and children. This information is then analyzed to allow for improvements of practice for the benefit of the children and the school as a whole.

At Wenlock C of E Junior School we give regular thought to how values can be used to support the child as a reflective learner and promote equality through quality teaching and learning. The school recognises and values all individuals no matter what their ethnicity, gender, disability and special educational need and social background.

Reviewed: February 2016

Review date: September 2019