



# Wesley Methodist Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Shine like stars as children of God

Policy Review Details	
The Induction policy will be reviewed in line with the policy review schedule	
Date of issue: Spring 2023	
Headteacher Signature	Rhys Jones
Governor Signature	
Date of next review: Summer 2025	

## **Our Vision**

**Wesley Methodist Primary School aspires to be a Christian family where all stakeholders work towards ensuring that our children “shine like stars as children of God”**

Phillipians 2:15.

**We aim to promote the value of self, others and the environment.**

## **Underpinning of our vision**

The vision of Wesley Methodist Primary School is underpinned through our use of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to ensure that we all have a secure understanding of the importance of our roles within our community and how to be good citizens that support and enable all to flourish. The use of these values support our vision’s aims and gives our children a daily mission to uphold these through their attitudes and learning behaviour.

Our curriculum is developmentally responsive which actively engages all in learning skills in a context; integrative – directing children to connect learning to daily lives; and exploratory – enabling children to discover their abilities, interests, learning styles, and ways that they can make contributions to society.

## **Safeguarding Statement**

At Wesley Methodist Primary School, we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. The procedures contained in the Safeguarding Policy apply to all staff, volunteers and governors.

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## Statement of intent

At Wesley Methodist, collective worship is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

It is our aim to instil the values, traditions and beliefs of the Methodist Church in our pupils, as well as knowledge of the broader Christian Faith. As an inclusive school to all, we also encourage our children to understand and respect the views of those from other or no faith traditions, so they can be understanding of the many beliefs and traditions that make up our multi-cultural society.

We see the value in collective worship and how it supports our school community to share, celebrate and strengthen our school culture. Daily collective worship is integral to the workings of our school and promotes our vision: **Shine like stars as children of God**. Our vision permeates through our school life to our entire school community with staff, pupils, governors, parents and Minister being highly valued and impacted by this.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

## **1. Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'

This policy will be implemented alongside the following school policies:

RE Policy

PSHE Policy

## **2. Definition of collective worship**

For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when our children and staff are able to come together and work collaboratively to promote and explore Christian values and the school's unique vision and identity.

To "take part" in collective worship implies that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

## **3. Aims of collective worship**

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Wesley Methodist Primary School are to:

- Explore our school vision, so it can be fulfilled at all times and in all places
- Enables staff and pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs, through the experience of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Encourage participation and response through active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community: for children and adults to want to love and serve others and be courageous advocates
- Promote the work of John Wesley and encourage children and adults to also see the world as their parish

- Acknowledge diversity and respect everyone equally, affirming each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community and church.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

#### **4. Organisation and planning**

The long term plan for collective worship is created annually by the Senior Leadership Team. A programme of weekly themes is identified for each term, which include the celebration of key Christian festivals, Christian values focus, themed weeks including fundraising opportunities, major festivals from other faiths, and pertinent stories to be shared. (See Appendix 1: Worship Plan) Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 7 of this policy. [Faith schools only] Worship will broadly be of a Christian character.

The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily from 9:10am-9:30am in the school hall. With additional opportunities for worship in the classroom that links to the themes and topics discussed in assembly. These activities will be planned by the worship co-ordinator in discussion with class teachers.

During worship, children will sing, a key message will be shared through stories, drama, or other activities and there will an opportunity for prayer (without compulsion) and reflection. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme. This includes the minister of our link church who is invited to lead assemblies weekly. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

In addition to our collective worship in the school hall as a whole school community, a daily reading and prayer will be led by a member of the school worship committee at 9:00am each morning via TEAMS into every classroom.

In circumstances where the hall may unavailable or meeting together maybe unviable e.g. COVID restrictions, assemblies will be held via teams or led in classrooms via video.

As part of the curriculum, Wesley Hall Methodist Primary School ensures that visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship which promote positive attitudes about diversity.

Through visits to places of worship, children are given an opportunity to discover, experience and reflect on their own religion and beliefs but also on those of others. They are able to see, touch and discover sacred artefacts and places, provoking a sense of awe and wonder. Through these experiences, children develop their use of correct terminology and they gain a deeper understanding and respect for others in our diverse world.

Visitors and Religious Education specialists are also invited to school to share their experiences and knowledge, to educate, motivate and interest children.

We encourage all children to take part in our acts of worship through song, prayers, reflection, discussion and evaluation. Volunteers may be selected to help with role plays, lead actions for songs, or take part in presentations and games as part of an act of worship.

Each class leads acts of worship each year and parents and families are invited into school to enjoy these 'class assemblies'.

These assemblies may be a reflection of one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, a particular festival or celebration, or a topic of class study. In all cases, the inclusion of a prayer and song maintains a worship element. Parents and families are also invited to join our celebrations such as Harvest, Nativities, Christmas Carol service, Education Sunday and Action for Children Sunday, as well as our monthly family assembly.

## 5. Weekly collective worship programme

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Headteacher focusing upon the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.
Tuesday	A Key Stage 2 worship assembly delivered by minister of Wesley Methodist  Key Stage 1 and EYFS complete a class worship
Wednesday	"Big-Start" bible based assembly led by worship co-ordinator and members of the pupil worship team.
Thursday	Singing assembly led by worship and music co-ordinator.
Friday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the headteacher celebrating the pupil's achievements that week.

Prayer, hymns and time for reflection will be a regular part of collective worship and participating individuals will recite the Lord's prayer.

Collective worship will follow the values laid out in our school vision which are linked to the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

These are:

**Love**

**Joy**

**Peace**

**Patience**

**Kindness**

**Goodness**

**Gentleness**

**Faithfulness**

**Self-Control**

**Talents**

All topics covered will be suitable to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

In addition to this, worship time will focus on current events, festivals and topics that reflect the needs of the school and its community at that time.

## **6. Implementation**

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Inviting children to reflect through worship areas within the classroom that are engaging, meaningful and interactive.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.
- The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.
- The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises.

## **7. Right to withdraw**

As a Church School, we actively encourage all children to take a full part in our acts of worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from any act of worship on personal religious grounds. In these circumstances, parents would be asked to discuss their views with the headteacher before a decision is made. Alternative arrangements for the child's supervision would be made during times where their class are involved in an act of worship.



## **8. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner to meet the expectations of current local and national changes. This will be reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is February 2023.