

Whitwick St. John the Baptist C.E. Primary School

Worship Policy

Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat

This vision is based on the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13 1-23

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'



Agreed by Staff: Sept 2024

Agreed by Governors: Sept 2024

Signed (Chair): _____ Date: _____

Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School is a proud Church of England Academy with a clear vision, rooted in Christian values. Our whole school ethos 'Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.' from Matthew 13:8. It is taken from and illustrated through the parable of The Sower and is regularly referenced in our acts of Collective Worship through the focus on our vision statement 'Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat...' known as Penguin Power. The children know that given the right conditions and circumstances, they will achieve. All at Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary understand that it the role of the school to ensure every child experiences success, not just once but over and over again.

Our root values are used as a focal point for collective worship, as well as being a thread that run through all aspects of school life. They are referred to daily by all staff and pupils understand that the development and these values will support them as they grow.

Rationale

At WJSTB, we have a daily act of inclusive, invitational and inspiring Collective Worship which is central to school life. This is important to all members of our school community as we value the chance to be together and reflect on the values that are part of our distinctiveness as a Church of England school. It is the central vehicle by which the school's vision and values are unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Each half term we explore a key Christian value or one of our Root Values. Each act of Collective Worship offers the opportunity for all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. This can take many forms through music, singing, stories, prayer, reflection and festivals.

Opportunities are regularly given to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world in which we live. Both children and adults are given time to contemplate and develop spiritually as they consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service – in line with our school bible verse. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. We know from our Bible stories that Jesus took part in many festival celebrations, therefore, time is also given for celebration, for the accomplishments of members of our school

family and takes into full account the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar and other national events which encompass our values

This policy is based on the requirements of the School's Trust Deed and reflects the traditions of the Church of England.

The Act of Worship will

- Enable children to understand and contribute to the Christian ethos of the school
- Contribute to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Develop children's understanding and experience of Christian beliefs and practices
- Reflect upon Christian values and responses to life
- Encourage an individual response to worship and respect for the response of others
- Support and supplement the religious education curriculum.

Over a period of time the following opportunities will be planned into the Daily Act of Worship

- To reflect on the Christian Value chosen for the term
- To participate in prayer, silence, meditation and reflection
- To experience different forms and ways of worship
- To use the Bible as a source book and inspiration
- To use the Church's year to reflect on the life of Jesus
- To develop an understanding of Christian symbols and their use in worship
- To foster awe and wonder and a personal response to God
- To recognise that the community includes people of all ages, races, genders and religions

Our Chaplaincy Team play a key role in leading worship and lead at least one assembly per half term, either linked to our current Christian Value, or to a charitable project.

The daily Act of Collective Worship will provide a stepping stone towards other experiences of Church life and worship. We maintain a strong link with St John the Baptist Church, Whitwick, and welcome their clergy into school. We also encourage visits from Christian Youth Groups and representatives of other faiths.

Organisation

A record of weekly questions linked to the termly Christian Value will be kept by the Headteacher.

A range of appropriate music will be chosen on a half termly basis..

The Act of Worship will last for between 15 and 20 minutes and will generally include

- Music to enter and leave the Hall
- Children welcome everyone by introducing the Holy Trinity
- A hymn or song
- A short story, play or poem
- An appropriate prayer or.
- A time for silence, reflection and for children to make their own personal response

The current rota is:

Monday Whole school - Headteacher. With a focus on the current Christian Value.

Tuesday Year group - Picture news. An opportunity to discuss and reflect on a current issues and make links to the school's and other Christian values. Links will also be made to British Values and Protected Characteristics where relevant.

Wednesday Whole school -Church team or Vicar

Thursday Singing assembly. Christian songs of praise and worship

Friday Whole school - Headteacher. Weekly Celebration assembly, an opportunity to celebrate Penguin Power through acknowledging and sharing individual, group and year group successes.

The *Fruits and Shoots* and *Out of the Box* resources are in the Head teacher's office. Parent packs to support Christian Values are also there and one is copied and sent home each half term.

The Act of Collective Worship is distinct from religious education lessons.

Each class is given an opportunity to reflect on the weekly worship by completing a piece of reflective writing, picture or similar which is presented in their books or on display.

As stated in the school prospectus parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Act of Collective Worship.

Monitoring

Collective Worship is monitored by the RE lead, the Head teacher and governors. Pupils voice plays a key part in this monitoring and evaluation.