Policy for Collective Worship 2026-2027



Introduction

Wybunbury Delves CE Primary School is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation and collaboration of worship are all taken seriously by the school.

The Church of England Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' states:

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this. (p.10).

At Wybunbury Delves collective worship is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. Worship is central to realising our aims and vision which is based on Matthew 5: 16 'Let your Light Shine'.

Vision: *We nurture a school community where everyone experiences a love of learning and of life; everyone is able to 'shine' and grow in God's love.*

At Wybunbury Delves we aim:



- To know Jesus, Light of the World;
- To be the guiding light on the path of each child's learning journey;
- To light the spark for a love of learning and of life;
- For our children to become leading lights in our community and our world;
- For every child to shine.

Why do we worship?

Faith means we believe in a God or Gods and for Christians we join together in an Act of Collective Worship to thank our God through our prayers and praise Him through songs. Worship is at 1pm each afternoon; it is when we make time for God in our busy lives. We worship for at least 15 minutes every day. In those minutes we make sure that we 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our souls and with all our minds and all our strength', just as the song says! We want everyone to feel respectful and calm but relaxed and comfortable and welcome in God's family.

Collective worship is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring. At Wybunbury Delves collective worship is:

- **Invitational,** offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- **Inspiring and creative,** impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.
- **Inclusive**, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- A **valued** part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.

No assumption is made that we all have the same beliefs and values.

Through Collective Worship, we blend Christian, Biblical teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, spiritually and intelligently. We do this by following a weekly structure:

Day	Focus	What	Who?	Where?
Tuesday	A Pause for Thought (fortnightly) https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/current/		House Worship team Red: Yellow: Green: Blue:	Classroom
Monday	A celebration of our School Values in Action. Let our Light SHINE!		Y6 Children	Hall
Tuesday	Worship led by our vicar (monthly)		Reverend Alison	Hall
Wednesday	A Journey Through the Bible – themed each term		Mrs Chesters	Hall
Thursday	Picture News	Picture News	Teacher Led	Classroom
Friday	PHSE Worship – start of each half term		Mrs Pointon	Hall
Friday	Help our children to become leading lights in our community and our world	Class Worship for parents	Class timetable	Hall

Legal background

We accept that:

"All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship" unless "the parent . . . requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school" [1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)]

We acknowledge the parents' right to withdraw their children and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of the school and is not an occasion for evangelism. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives.

For our school:

"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."

Collective Worship at Wybunbury Delves CE Primary is delivered in accordance with the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring.



Who worships?

At our school parents can choose for the child to join in our worship or to have quiet time in another area. Most people join us as a family who worship God in our Church school. Church schools are not just for Christians, children who follow a different faith also come to our school and we all respect each other's ideas about our faith. Worship is invitational to all our children and staff.

Worship Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

• 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.

Who do we Worship?

Our God is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. These three parts of God are called the TRINITY. Everyday our worship reminds us of:

God the Father: We say a prayer to God the Father called 'The Lord's Prayer' and it begins with 'Our Father'. In the Bible it tells us that Jesus taught it to us.

God the Son: Our school Prayer begins 'O Jesus' and we ask for help to follow in His footsteps and try to be as good and kind as He is.

God the Holy Spirit: At the end of our Worship we say the Grace to ask that God as 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' be with us in our daily life. We know that as the Spirit, God can be with us everywhere and that He is in all of the created world. God is LIFE.

Worship Structure

When planning collective worship, we build in a spiritual dimension with opportunities for prayer, reflection and quiet. Children are invited to pray or sing and there is a sense of respect for the integrity of our pupils. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Each Act of Worship will follow the same agreed format for worship, this includes class led worship. The worship table at the front is special, the focal point for worship and should be treated as such. Nothing should be placed on it – no pens, books. Worksheets, water bottles, the House Cup etc. If you are using the hall and it is likely to get damaged please put away the items on the worship table so that they are not damaged. Worship in the classroom still needs a focal point which includes a candle.

	Key Ideas	**What we do at Wybunbury Delves**
Gather	We are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God.	Music playing as children and staff enter – relevant to topic. The screen is used to display slides, songs or videos with questions, reflections and prompts. Everyone can listen or sing along. Talking is not allowed and this should be modelled by staff.

	We gather together for this special time of fellowship as a community.	**Worship Leader: Welcome to Worship** **Worship Leader: We gather in Jesus' name** *Response: Help us explore, discover and learn together* **Worship Leader: We light the Candles to remind us Jesus is the Light of the World, Our School Motto is Towards the Light and we carry God's Light in Each and Every one of us.** **Worship Leader: Peace be with You** *Response: And Also with You* **Worship Leader: I invite you to join with me in saying the Prayer that Jesus taught us...** *Our Father… (traditional version)* **Worship Leader: And our School Prayer** *O Jesus…*
Engage	We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible We listen to God's message and consider how it might apply to our own lives.	How do we share and illustrate the story, message and or theme? (examples: story, video clip, drama, artefacts, pictures, poems etc.) How do we relate it to the Bible if it is not a Bible story? What verse can we share? What questions can we ask our community to engage them into the story, teaching or message? Some examples~ 🕯 I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community? 🕯 I wonder why Jesus told this story? 🕯 I wonder if this story makes you think of an example from your life? 🕯 I wonder why Christians thinks this story is better? How do we link it to real life (e.g. the playground, classroom, home) or link to local community or world events? Link to Christians around the world, charity events. **Check List/prompts:** • Listen to a piece of music together. • Sing together • Read from the Bible • Share the message • Use a variety of strategies (video, artwork, music, drama, props etc.) • Discuss and question the community
Respond	We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection. We are given the invitation to worship God in different ways.	How do we allow the community to respond? (Think, question, act) Some examples: 🕯 I wonder what I can do differently in response to this story? 🕯 I wonder how you fell after watching the video clip? 🕯 I wonder what you can do … help./care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend etc. How will you incorporate reflection, silence or stillness into the worship? What opportunities will there be for formal or informal prayer? (e.g. teacher led, child led, spontaneous, planned, up on the screen, personal in your head, call and response, prayers used in Anglican Liturgy) **Check List/prompts:** • Opportunity to respond • Prayer time • Reflection time, opportunity for silence or stillness • Listen to a piece of music to reflect on

Send	We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the World We are all sent out with God's blessing	A worship song if required – match to the theme where possible or make the link as to why we are singing this particular song. **Worship Leader: God's message as you leave the hall today think about…** A reminder to everyone about how they can apply what we have heard at school, home and beyond. **Worship Leader: Closing Prayers – I invite you to join me in saying Our School Aims Prayer** *Dear Lord…* **Worship Leader: And The Grace** *May the Grace…* **Worship Leader: As the candle go out remember that we carry God's light in each and everyone of us. Use it to guide your actions.** **Worship Leader: Go in Peace to Discover God's world and your place in it** *We go in Jesus name. Amen* Music playing as children leave – relevant to topic. Again – no talking which must be modelled by the staff. The screen is used to display slides, songs or videos with questions, reflections and prompts. This is often the same song as we entered to. This could be the worship song for today. Children are to leave the hall line by line, silently back to the classroom, staff to monitor. **Check List/prompts:** • Turn out/blow out candle • Send the community out with a thought or action • Share a sending prayer or blessing

What do we do in our worship?

When we come to Collective Worship, we are showing that we are the Family of God (children and grown-ups who work in our school, our parents, friends and visitors), we are a community and value this time worshipping together. We gather with a call and response: We gather in Jesus name - help us explore, discover and learn together.

When we pray we talk to God; we do this out loud when we pray together and sometimes, quietly in our own heads, and we know God can hear us.

When we look at our cross and candle, (and sometimes, at flowers and beautiful pictures of God's creation or God's family) it helps us to think about God and give our worship time as a special time to Him.

We light our candle as a 'symbol' (sign) that Jesus is with us as the 'light of the world' and that He is with us in our worship and daily life. We hope that like a candle lights the darkness, you feel that He will help you when you are afraid or worried.

When we sing it is important that we all join in. We choose songs that match with the seasons, the Christian year, our Family of God or giving thanks. Some are fun and louder, some are softer and thoughtful. Our songs can show the mood of our worship and that there are sad times, happy time and peaceful times. We have broadened our action and signing songs to include all.

When we listen to music, it can make us feel calm or lively. We use music as part of our worship, or to come in or leave by. When our musicians play for us, we celebrate their talents and are joyful in sharing with them

When we share our gifts from God, we are thanking Him and celebrating our talents and showing that we are all different and can serve God in different ways. You might share special work with us to show us how good your work is or to help us to learn something new from you. You might share a prayer that you have written or a poem. We celebrate when our team wins or plays sport with fair play. We clap children who join in competitions for sport, music or art. We often thank those children and grown-ups who look after our plants and make our school look so lovely, it takes special gifts and talents to

look after nature and wonder at God's creation. We celebrate when someone looks after another, like when we award our special 'guardian angel' or thank someone for their kindness.

When we listen we learn about God and Jesus, the Christian Church and how Christians live their lives and celebrate the Christian year. We listen to stories that make us think carefully about our lives and how we live with others. Sometimes we learn about other faiths so that we can come to understand different beliefs and ways of living. The Vicar tells us about Christian festivals and we join in services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We learn about Advent, Lent and Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). When we learn about something for a few weeks we call it a THEME, like learning about 'New Life' through Lent and Easter.

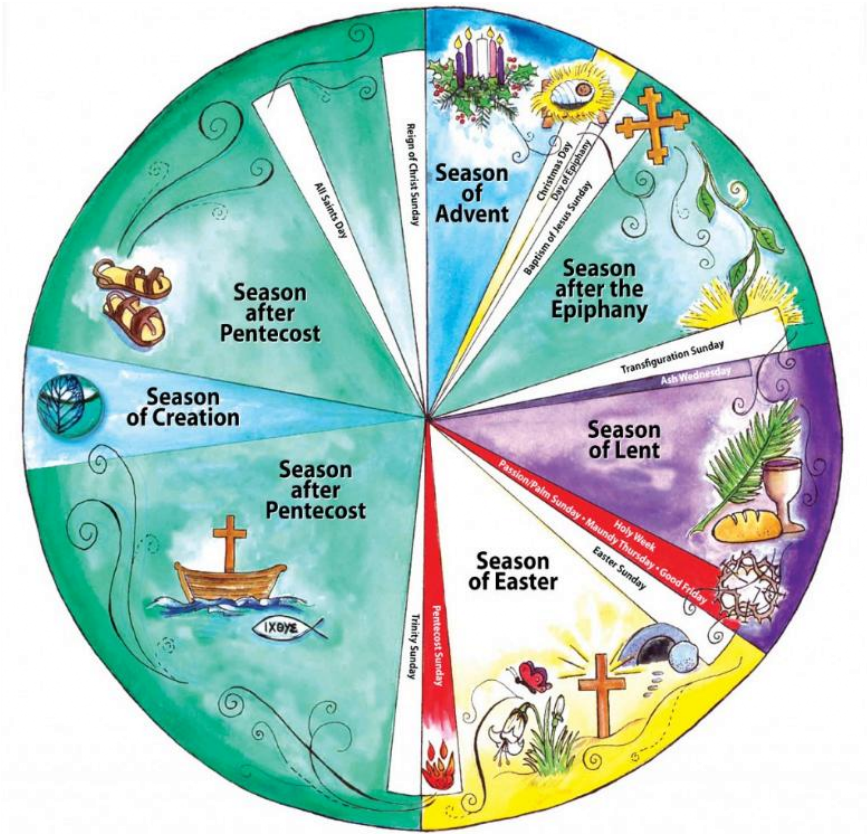
When we join in through acting out stories, sharing answers and ideas, performing dance and music or making something for everyone to look at (like an Advent ring, a picture or model), we are adding to the worship and helping everyone to remember the Message of our worship.

When we feel a sense of awe and wonder we recognise that we are a special part of God's awesome, wonderful creation and that He is INFINITE and OMNIPRESENT (never ending and all around), sometimes we can't answer questions about God because He is too marvellous and we marvel at His work.

When we reflect we think about our life and REFLECT ON (think about) what we have learned for our own lives. It might be about the way we behave (our moral and social life) or about how we feel inside and our sense of peace, calm and connectedness to the Spiritual world which is greater than our day to day routines. Reflection is our quiet time with our God.

Worship table

Items on the Worship Table will include: • The Bible • A Cross • Three Candle • Thematic artefacts • Focus texts • Liturgical colour • Triptych Painting of Christ	



Liturgical Colours

In the Church of England, one of four colours – purple, green, gold (or white) and red – referred to as 'liturgical colours', are used for altar linen, clergy robes and various hangings. At Wybunbury Delves CE Primary School, our focus worship table covering follows these colours. The worship leaders change the colour during school worship so that everyone starts to understand that there are different seasons of the school year.

The colour reflects the season, so that for instance in Advent purple is used, a colour of royalty because it is a time of waiting, when Christians are preparing to welcome the coming of a King. Purple is used again in Lent because it also symbolises suffering and pain.

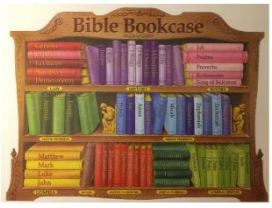
At Christmas and Easter the colour changes to white or gold, both bright colours for festivals, times of joy and celebration.

Between the festivals, known as Ordinary Times, green cloths are used to symbolise all living things, renewal and promise of new life.

And finally, red is the colour of fire, used in churches to celebrate Pentecost and saints' days.

Colours play an important part of the worship of the Church and they change according to the seasons of the Church year. Colours are a primary source of symbolism, and communicate to worshippers much about the nature of the lessons heard during the Liturgy of the Word (which are themed according to the seasons), and about what is done during worship. On Good Friday, black is sometimes used. Some churches are simply bare at this time instead of using colours for symbolism.

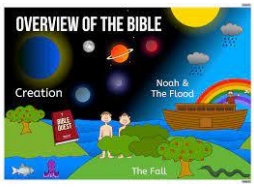
Did you know? The church year begins with Advent.



Key Resources to support the delivery of worship

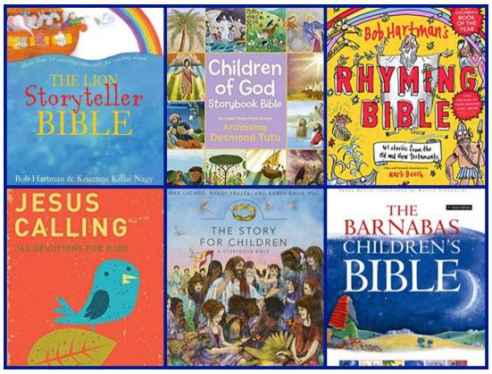
This is not an exhaustive list, but identifies the key resources which are used for Worship each week:

- The Bible Bookcase
- The Bible Timeline – ReQuest resource



Books:

- 'The Story for Children, A Storybook Bible' by Max Lucado
- 'Children of God, Storybook Bible' by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- 'Jesus Calling, 365 Devotions for Kids' by Sarah Young
- 'The Lion Storyteller Bible' by Bob Hartman & Krisztina Kallai Nagy
- 'The Barnabas Children's Bible' by Rhona Davies and Marcin Piwowarsk
- 'Rhyming Bible' by Bob Hartman. • 'The Heart of the Bible Retold for Children' by Patricia Ainge
- 'Bible Infographics for Kids'



Websites :

- HeartSmart TV: https://www.heartsmartv.com/browse
- Picture News: https://www.picture-news.co.uk/
- Journey Through the Bible: https://bible-calendar.net/22/
- Story Tent: https://www.storytent.concordant.online/#:~:text=What%20is%20The%20Story%20Tent,through%20the%20lens%20of%20story.

School Prayers

Our School Prayer	**Our School Aims Prayer**
O Jesus, *Friend of the friendless, healer of the sick* *Whose life was spent in doing good,* *Help us to follow in thy footsteps.* *Make us strong to do right,* *Gentle with the weak and* *Kind to all who are in sorrow,* *That we may be like thee,* *Our Lord and maker,* *Amen*	*Dear Lord* *Help us to know Jesus, light of the world.* *Help our school to be the guiding light on the path of each child's learning journey.* *Help our teachers to light the spark for a love of learning and of life.* *Help our children to become leading lights in our community and our world.* *Help every child to shine.* *Amen*