



**Walsgrave**  
Church of England Academy

# Collective Worship Policy

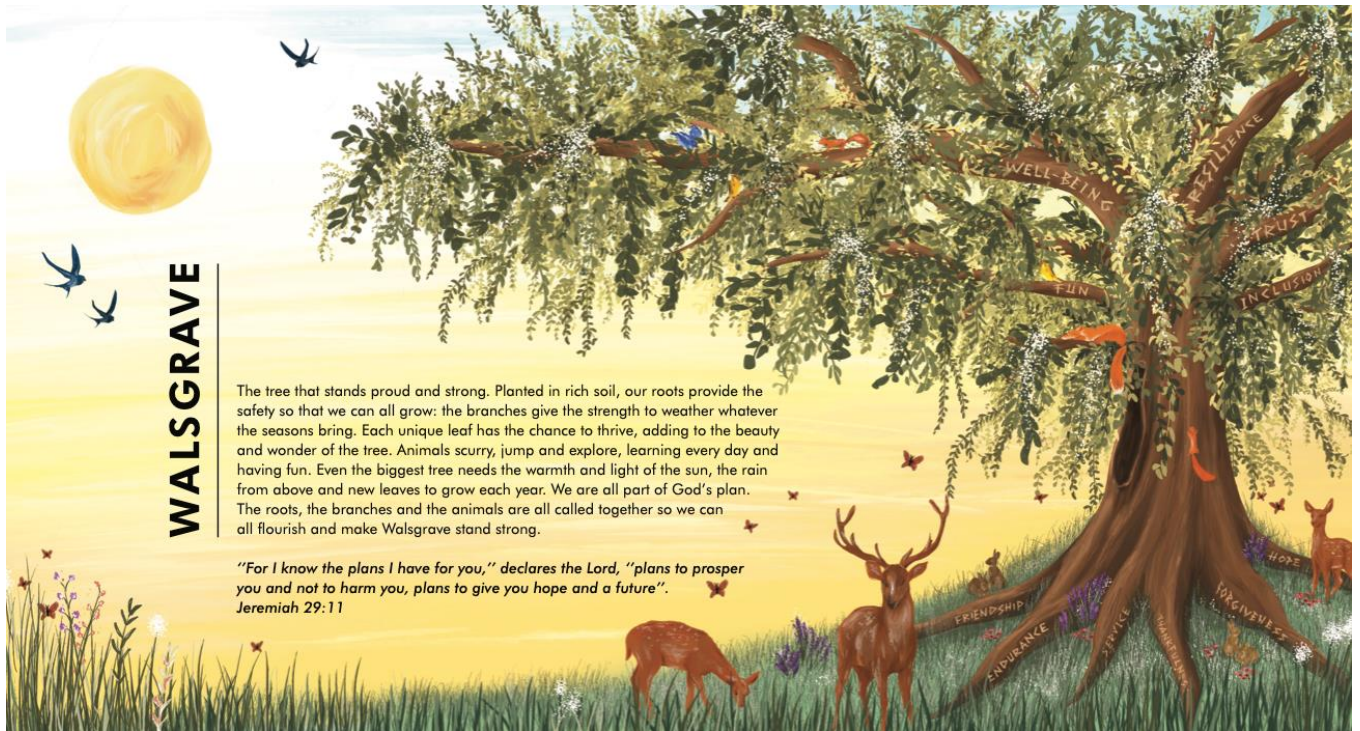
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Policy Date: 01/09/2021

Review Date: 31/08/2023

## 1. Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Walsgrave C of E Academy. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.



### ***Together We Thrive***

***"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11***

## 2. Our Collective Worship Principles

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all children
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring, fun and combines a range of experiences with children at the centre of its delivery

### ***a. It is invitational***

Acts of collective worship will:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice and encouraging pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy
- nurture reflection, stillness, meditation, and prayer ([Weekly child-led prayer](#))
- provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images, and words. ([Through Key-Stage bespoke worship opportunities](#))
- provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day ([Through use of music](#))
- foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it ([Link to our Picture News resource](#))
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community ([St Mary's Church, Baptist Church, and other local religions](#))

### ***b. It is inclusive***

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community ([Worship Overview coverage-tracker](#))
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe ([Child-led worship and regular Pupil Voice activities](#))
- be appropriate for every child to attend ([Through Key-Stage bespoke worship opportunities](#))
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children ([Link to our Picture News resource](#))
- foster active roles of children, parents, and members of the local community – in preparation, participation, and leadership ([Communication to families/ community through Weekly Newsletter & Class Dojo](#))

### ***c. It is inspiring and fun***

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- promote wide ownership of our Christian vision ([Children and staff participation](#))
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life ([Biblical stories routinely linked and applied to modern-day life](#))
- enhance, complement, and extend curricular work ([RE & other incidental Theme-based links](#))

- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content
- encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the trinitarian nature of Christian faith
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events
- Include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews
- include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal, and wider achievements of children (Merit and other celebration assemblies)

Our collective worship provides children and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
  - Christian seasons and festivals
  - school values associated with our vision
  - children's and adults' achievements
- experience prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed
- worship God on their own terms

### 3. The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasions worship takes place in the *church*. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas are celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

	<b>EYFS</b>	<b>KS1</b>	<b>KS2</b>
<b>Monday</b>	*Class Worship	Whole School Worship	
<b>Tuesday</b>	EYFS Phase Worship	KS1 Phase Worship	KS2 Phase Worship
<b>Wednesday</b>	Wellbeing, reflection & prayer		
<b>Thursday</b>	EYFS Worship Through Song	KS1 Worship Through Song	KS2 Worship Through Song
<b>Friday</b>	*EYFS Celebration Worship	KS1 Celebration Worship	KS2 Celebration Worship

\*Children come into KS1 Worship at an appropriate point in the year once the children have settled into school-life

## 4. Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. We encourage our children to plan and deliver worship also through our Junior Leadership Team.

## 5. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Each half term, the Headteacher produces a Worship Overview to maximise all aspects of worship and reflection taking place at that point and to support communication with all staff, children, and families.

Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation, and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

Acts of worship often include ritual aspects. These are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

**Reviewed by:** D Sowerby September 2021

**Next Review Date:** September 2023

**Approved by Head of Education, Primary:**

Signed:

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Rob Darling  
Head of Education, Primary