

**WOULDHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL****WORSHIP POLICY**1. Rationale

Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School's Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos of 'Flying HIGH' and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on our Christian values based on the fruits of the spirit from Galatians 5.

At Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary school we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all learners and contributes significantly in our drive for all members of our school community to 'live life in all its fullness'.

2. Statement of Aims:

The main aim of worship in Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School is to acknowledge, give thanks to and praise God.

We also aim to acquaint pupils with the practice of prayer, in particular the Lord's prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and to observe common Christian values and festivals and to nurture pupils' spirituality as well as being aware of the rich heritage of Anglican worship.

3. Strategy for Achievement of Aims

Worship is given a high profile in the school. All children and teachers are expected to attend on a daily basis unless parents have made a written request to be withdrawn which has subsequently been discussed with the headteacher.

The content of worship is planned in advance following input from our children to give a progressive experience for all. Themes will be co-ordinated by the worship leader (Mrs M Olubajo) at the start of each term. This will follow the Church of England liturgical calendar and plans will be available for all on TEAMS.

Each class with the exception of Year R will arrange to lead an act of worship for the whole school at least once during the year (This is an aim for 2021/2022 but Covid dependent). This may take place in the church. These acts of worship are most commonly associated with (but not limited to) significant Christian festivals.

'Wouldham Worship Crew' are children who have volunteered to assist and contribute to leading worship and will be supported in this by the Worship Leader.

Acts of worship give pupils a variety of religious experiences including prayer, silence, music, focussed material, Biblical material, reflection and personal involvement. Care is taken to pitch content at the level of understanding of the children. We will actively seek out opportunities for children to be fully participative in school worship.

Worship will be rooted in Anglican tradition and will include responsive sayings, suitable use of music, symbols, awareness of liturgy and the Eucharist. All of this will reflect full awareness and development of the different worship styles of 'word' 'action' 'symbol' and 'emotion'.

Members of different denominations and faith groups will be invited to lead acts of worship within the school.

Parents are invited to share special worship assemblies during the year.

Governors will aim to join in with worship when visiting school and report back to the governing body after doing this.

#### 4. Statement of Provision

Each week, collective acts of daily worship will take the following form:

Monday:	Themed whole school worship
Tuesday:	Themed whole school worship
Wednesday:	Themed 'family group' worship to include celebrations
Thursday:	Themed whole school worship
Friday:	Themed whole school worship (developing pupil led)

Worship will normally follow the pattern of GEARS – where there is a distinctive ‘Gathering’ response followed by Engagement and Action leading to a Response to the content and finishing with a ‘Sending’ out. Where possible a variety of liturgies (both published and home written) will be used throughout the year.

Eucharistic understanding is an important part of worship routines and we will aim to celebrate a whole school Eucharist regularly. This will not follow a set pattern each time beyond the offering of both bread and wine for communicants as well as blessed bread for all. All Eucharists will be planned with the local vicar and/or curate who will always act as celebrant according to Anglican Canon law.

We aim to mark the following festivals in conjunction with the local church: Harvest, Trafalgar Day, All Saints Day, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity.

Visitors from a range of denominations, including the local vicar and curate, will be encouraged to take part/lead worship when available.

The Family Trust will lead one worship each term (where available). The content of their programme is decided themselves and communicated to the school in advance.

#### Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School meets this requirement and this is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and it is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents wishing to withdraw from worship then contact needs to be made with the Headteacher.

### ***Worship***