

Through all of its policies, Wellstead Primary School aims to provide:

A caring, family ethos in which all children can flourish.

Excellent standards of teaching which enable all children to achieve their full potential.

A curriculum which builds enthusiasm for learning and equips children for the next stage of their education.

Wellstead Primary School Policy on Collective Worship

AIMS

Our daily acts of collective worship aim to help children to develop:

- a sense of caring and sharing
- positive attitudes
- a sense of community
- enthusiasm for their school, fellow pupils and the wider world
- the ability to reflect, consider and celebrate
- a knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship
- awareness of other beliefs and traditions
- children's ability to pause for reflection and stillness
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and to consider spiritual and moral issues

OBJECTIVES

In our acts of collective worship we endeavor to:-

- promote a common ethos and shared values
- encourage children to see this as a thoughtful time, when the whole school comes together as a family
- encourage participation
- provide opportunities, over time, for every child to share their own thoughts, beliefs, ideas and accomplishments
- introduce children to a range of multicultural and religious artefacts, celebrations and beliefs
- ensure that they reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief
- include opportunities for praise, prayer and/or quiet reflection
- include a range of music for listening and singing as part of our worship

Collective Worship at Wellstead Primary School is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. Collective Worship is an integral part of the school curriculum and closely linked to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including citizenship. Collective Worship can take place at any time in the school day and will take different forms in terms of groupings. The majority of acts of Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' reflecting the 'broad traditions of Christian belief'. This is whilst maintaining an awareness of all world religions. It is a legal requirement that all pupils attend a daily act of worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw them from this activity. Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and provided with alternative activities.

When planning Collective Worship regard should be paid to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background. At Wellstead Primary School there are pupils from secular backgrounds as well as those from a variety of strong religious traditions. All contributions will be valued. Pupils may take on a variety of roles in Collective Worship such as leadership, contribution and participation. A spontaneous response is welcomed and all members of the school community will be invited to join in.

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The essential principles which apply to any act of Worship are **reflection, response and reverence**.

During the reflection phase, a candle may be lit, a picture or image shown, music may be played, a poem or story read and stillness requested. During the response phase, a level of involvement is required. Responses might be expressed through silent thoughts, listening to a presenter, singing or chanting together, saying a familiar learnt prayer, repeating or reciting a response or role play. In the reverence phase, certain realities and values held to be of central importance to the community, are recognised, reaffirmed and celebrated.

Themes for the week for Collective Worship will be decided on a termly basis and circulated to all members of staff ahead of schedule. Major religious festivals will be highlighted as well as themes that are central to the teaching of many faiths (e.g. honesty, love, belonging). The theme for the week will be introduced during Monday's Collective Worship. A brief record should be kept of Collective Worship undertaken in year groups and individual classes, during the following week and this should complement the weekly theme. There will be the opportunity to welcome speakers from a broad spectrum of religious groups and local church leaders will regularly lead acts of worship. Regular meetings will be held between the RE Manager, assistant headteacher and Rev'd Fiona Gibbs to arrange dates for visitor speakers throughout the year and set themes for the term ahead.

Through playing an active role in Collective Worship, all members of the school community will have the opportunity to think deeply about issues which affect their spiritual and moral development. It is expected that:

Pupils will:

- Experience a feeling of togetherness and sharing
- Explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy
- Think of the needs of others
- Respond to a variety of stimuli
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Pause for reflection and/or prayer
- Pay attention to those things in life which have the greatest and most powerful meaning
- Celebrate special occasions and religious festivals
- Celebrate the success and achievements of themselves and others
- Celebrate the beliefs, attitudes and values held to be of central concern to our community

Approved by the Full Governing Body	Autumn 16
Date for review	Autumn 18