

Collective Worship Policy

Non-Statutory Policy

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For internal use.

Link to other policies:

- Behaviour for Learning;
- Child protection and safeguarding;
- Relationship and Sex Education;
- SEND;
- SMSC/PSHE;
- Religious Education;
- Teaching and learning

St. Wilfrid's C of E Academy
Collective Worship Policy



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1. Rationale

As a Church academy everything we do is based on Christian values and is summed up in our mission statement and through our vision ‘Lord direct us to LIVE life to the full’. The Governors and staff of St Wilfrid’s Church of England Academy are committed to the provision of high-quality Collective Worship opportunities in a Christian context. We aim to provide opportunities where we can live out our vision and enable all to flourish. At the heart of the commitment is the notion that whilst Learning we are Inspired, and develop Values through Experiences so that each member flourishes in this life whilst preparing for the next. This echoes our motto ‘*Domine dirige nos*: ‘Lord direct us’.

We believe that this life should be lived out to the full, through direction and guidance from the Lord. Our hope is that the daily experiences within the Academy will enable our students to develop holistically; growing in character and valuing all others.

Students will learn values through academic study and everyday interactions. They will be inspired by the spiritual and extra-curricular experiences, and in turn, inspire hope in others. Students will become stronger, well-rounded and content individuals who value themselves and others. They will be given opportunities to develop and experience a fully-inclusive environment.

The statement below was written by the foundation governors and summarises our pursuit, as we promote high standards and develop our understanding that the Christian faith is the worship and service of One God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

‘St Wilfrid’s Church of England Academy sees education as an integral part of the mission of the Church to proclaim God as Creator, Christ as Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as Inspirer of all that is good in human living. The main purpose of the Academy is to provide an excellent education, both academic and social, in a Christian context, to enable its students to grow up to take their full part as citizens of this world and the next.’

2. Collective Worship at St Wilfrid’s Church of England Academy

As a Church of England Academy, the Christian Ethos and Values filter through each and every aspect of our lives. We have been described as providing “a distinctively Christian environment in which all students and staff, from whatever background, are supported and encouraged to flourish and be the best they can be” (SIAMs Report 2016).

St Wilfrid’s holds worship right at the heart of the Academy and expresses its Christian Distinctiveness not only in the way we live out our lives together but in our collective worship life too. Whilst we recognise each member of the Academy has a different background and story, we seek to create an atmosphere where the God-given potential is drawn out of all, in order for them to thrive wherever life takes them.

Practically, we celebrate a new theme each week in a relevant and relatable way through collective worship, business assemblies and in form groups. This allows time for both staff and students to contemplate each theme.

One of the unique opportunities at Saint Wilfrid’s is celebrating together at Blackburn Cathedral. Each year there are five occasions where the Academy comes together to share in communion and collective worship within the cathedral. Students get to access different forms of worship expression, such as dance, drama and music, as well as hearing a topical message from one of our local clergy.

3. Christian values

As an Academy, we believe each student has the opportunity to influence far beyond the walls of the Academy. For this reason, we know it is essential to equip our students with Christian values that serve as an anchor in their lives.

13 pebbles continue to represent our values and we have chosen to build on this established foundation by linking each of these values to the strands of our LIVE vision:

Learn – Wisdom, Contentment, Honesty, Trust

Inspire – Service, Hope

Value – Forgiveness, Respect, Patience, Thankfulness

Experience – Courage, Koinonia, Love

Why pebbles? When a pebble is dropped into water, it creates a ripple effect which filters out across the water. This is what we believe our students can influence others in their communities, with these Christian values being the first thing people notice.

4. Policy aims

It is our aim at St Wilfrid's to create a culture and atmosphere that embeds worship as an integral part of the learning journey of all students and staff. It is inclusive and supportive of those with no faith, different faiths as well as those who follow a Christian faith. This is achieved by balancing the teaching of scripture with life applications, responses and challenges. In addition, opportunities are given through clubs for students to deepen and demonstrate their faith in the way they serve others.

Students and staff are supported in their faith journey. This happens collectively in Cathedral services, assemblies, form-time and in faith clubs. Students meet regularly during lunchtimes to be part of Prayer and Praise, PIAS club and Christian Union. Students are also able to develop opportunities for leadership, by serving these groups or by coaching younger students or raising the profile of the house charity, Compassion.

The aims for the various strands of the Worship life of St Wilfrid's are as follows:

Aims for Cathedral services:

- Invitation for students, staff and governors to experience Worship in Blackburn Cathedral;
- Invitation for all students and staff to celebrate the Eucharist;
- Invitation for all staff and students to reflect in word, hymn and meditation on the significance of the Christian Faith, demonstrated in the Anglican tradition;
- A witness to Blackburn that St Wilfrid's is a Church of England Academy, as we process to and from the Cathedral;
- Continue to develop strong links between the school and the Cathedral and the Diocese;
- An opportunity to celebrate the occasions of St Wilfrid's Day, Nine Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Ascension Day.

Aims for year group worship assemblies:

- To offer a consistent theme to all year groups from a member of the SLT, worship leader or local faith leader;

- To offer students and staff the opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith, through music, teaching and reflection;
- To lay a foundation of teaching that students can further explore in form time worship and in faith clubs.

Aim for the Video Devotional:

- To further support the Worship assembly and the theme of the week;
- To go deeper into the Bible passage to develop the theme of the week;
- To offer additional challenges for students to discuss in form time worship activities.

Aims for form time worship activities:

- Students given the opportunity to reflect on the weekly theme and on the content covered in the Year group worship assembly;
- Students given the opportunity to go deeper into the weekly theme in form with tutors and fellow students;
- Students are encouraged to respond to the challenges given in the year group worship assembly and in the video devotional;
- Students are encouraged to ‘journal’ their responses to the worship theme in their ‘Worship Workbook’.

Aims for form assemblies:

- Students given the opportunity to lead assembly for their year group;
- Students given the responsibility of developing and delivering worship material on a given theme;
- Students write and lead prayers;
- Students develop public speaking experience in front of their peers.

Aims for House Assemblies:

- House tutors deliver a worship theme as part of their house assemblies;
- Students are encouraged to work as part of a team, living out the Christian values;
- Students to support and help each other succeed;
- Students given the opportunity to raise money for the House charity, Compassion.

Aims for ‘Prayer and Praise’:

- Students given the opportunity to develop their relationship with God through song writing;
- Students given the opportunity to lead Worship through song, prayer or sharing a thought or testimony;
- Students given the opportunity to support each other and the academy, through prayer.

Aims for PAIS club:

- Students given the opportunity to meet to learn more about faith;
- Students encouraged to connect with the PAIS team and ask questions about their beliefs;
- Students are given information on how to access additional faith clubs in school and in the local area.

Aims for Christian Union:

- Students are given an opportunity to ask their questions of faith;
- Students are given an opportunity to discuss their opinions on a theme with others;
- Students are given an opportunity to lead through prayer, discussion, Bible reading or serving.

Aims for Worship Committee meetings:

- To support the Christian Distinctiveness focus of St Wilfrid's;
- To create strong links between the Worship Coordinator, SLT Lead, Learning Area Coordinator of RE, Governors and local church leaders;
- To offer vision and support further developments of the Christian Distinctiveness focus of St Wilfrid's.

Aims for the 'Serve' programme:

- Students learn how to serve others as they develop their faith;
- Students learn how serving involves sharing with others;
- Students learn how serving involves empowering others;
- Students learn how serving involves volunteering;
- Students learn how serving involves developing empathy towards others;
- Students develop an understanding of the role of Jesus to serve, not to be served.

Aims for 'Compassionate':

- Year 8 students are given the opportunity to serve;
- Raising the profile of Compassion in and around school;
- Students take ownership of preparing resources to inform house tutors of our sponsor children and the work of compassion;
- Students to coordinate the writing of letters and disseminating information when letters have been received.

Aims for the Chapel Eucharist:

- To increase the opportunity for staff and students to share in the sacrament;
- To give students the opportunity to lead in song, readings, prayers and sharing thoughts and testimonies;
- To celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus each month;
- To further develop links with local clergy in the diocese.

Aims for the wall art:

- To focus students and staff on the importance of the Bible as the foundation of our mission and values;
- To strengthen students in their understanding and recall of Bible passages;
- To encourage staff and students to engage with and remember the Bible references.

Aims for departmental displays:

- To demonstrate the vision and values through all aspects of academy life;
- To remember that all areas of learning are rooted in God as creator;
- To encourage students to realise that all learning is part of the Worship of St Wilfrid's.

5. Legal requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that "all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship". The academy seeks to fulfil this obligation by delivering high quality Collective Worship in accordance with the school's Trust Deeds and reflecting the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special services take place in the school and local churches during the course of the academic year, with the Eucharist being celebrated regularly.

The Worship Coordinator, supported by the SLT link for Christian Distinctiveness, is responsible for the strategic planning of the worship life of the school.

6. Opportunities to worship

We celebrate the differences we all share in our beliefs and recognise that we are all on a different part of a faith journey. It is our aim that all staff and students engage positively in the core worship activities as well as create exciting ways to deepen their understanding and faith. Faith clubs take place regularly. These have adapted and changed over time and will continue to develop.

Prayer and Praise – In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we read the encouragement to “Pray continually”. Every Monday lunchtime we meet in the Chapel to pray. This is our chance to pray for our families, friends, our school and community and for the wider world. We pray for our sponsored children, their families and their projects. We also Praise. This involves students, staff and PAIS team members playing and singing and even song writing.

PAIS Club – Each Wednesday, the PAIS team come to meet with students and play games, talk and share a message for the students. This is an exciting opportunity for students who are new to faith or who have a different faith or none. The PAIS team are passionate about helping students learn more about God and build strong relationships through their enthusiasm and passion.

Christian Union – Each Friday, students, staff, PAIS team members and local church volunteers meet to share lunch, hot chocolate and discussions around the theme of the week. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles and are responsible for music, sharing their thoughts and praying.

St Wilfrid's is committed to developing students both academically and spiritually through their time here. Through our additional clubs, as well as the core worship activities, students and staff have every opportunity to grow in faith as part of the school community.

7. Organisation

Students take part in a year group worship assembly each week. This is led by a member of SLT, a member of the worship team or a member of local clergy. Worship assemblies follow a pattern including reflective worship music on entrance, the theme for the week, a weekly challenge, a memory verse and students are invited to reflect on the words of a prayer.

	Worship Assembly	Form Worship
Year 7	Monday	Monday/Tuesday
Year 8	Friday	Friday/Monday
Year 9	Thursday	Thursday/Friday
Year 10	Wednesday	Wednesday/Thursday

Year 11	Thursday	Thursday/Friday
Year 12/13	Wednesday	ROTA

8. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Worship Coordinator arranges the varied evaluation of collective worship. It is both formal and informal, engaging staff, students, parents and governors. The outcomes of evaluation are shared with the senior leadership team, governors, staff, parents and students and areas where we can enable Collective Worship to flourish further is actioned and its subsequent impact is measured and reviewed.

9. Right to withdraw

At St Wilfrid's we seek to be an inclusive community which values differing points of view. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The Governing Board would express concern if any parent who had accepted a place in this Church of England Academy were to do so. Any parent who does wish to exercise that right should contact the Principal.

School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of students withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time and parents are asked to supply suitable material for reflection appropriate to their child's needs. Please note the right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

10. Implementation of the Policy

It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that the Collective Worship policy is implemented correctly within the academy and all staff follow the procedures set out in it. This will be reinforced by the Worship Coordinator and as new staff join the academy they will receive support regarding the delivery of Collective Worship. This will coincide with the new staff induction training.

Staff, visiting speakers and members of the local clergy delivering collective worship have a responsibility to ensure that the content is delivered in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner; respecting the beliefs and values of all students. Any disclosures made by any student as a consequence of the week's theme are to be reported by the member of staff by following appropriate steps outlined in the Academy's 'Safe Guarding Policy'.

11. Evaluating the policy

Monitoring and evaluation of the Collective Worship policy is the responsibility of the Worship Coordinator; alongside the SLT link for Christian Distinctiveness and is conducted and reviewed as part of the monitoring of Collective Worship in the Academy. This policy will be reviewed every 3 years as minimum. It is next due for review in September 2023.