

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Whinmoor St Paul's (VA) C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Every Child is a Unique Child of God

At Whinmoor St. Paul's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, everything we do is underpinned at all times by the Christian ethos of valuing the individual. We believe that every child is respected as a unique child of God, the future adults in society.

We believe children are gifts from God and we are privileged to work with their families and carers, to enable them to live life to the full.

‘Behold children are the gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.’ PSALM 127:3

Agreed Date: April 2024

Review Date: April 2026

Signed Chair of Governors: R Davies

Date: 24th April 2024

Our Vision

To promote the development of secure, happy, well-adjusted individuals who are equipped for lifelong learning

At Whinmoor St Paul's Primary School we believe that every child is a unique child of God and lives in a world that God has made.

Our Aims are to...

- Provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment where every child can achieve their full potential
 - Provide a curriculum which is knowledge-rich, wide, progressive, purposeful & connects to our community & the world we live in
 - Enable each child, through fostering high expectations, to grow and develop intellectually, physically, spiritually, and morally in order to enable him/her to achieve their potential
 - Develop attitudes which will be positively helpful to the individual child, the whole school and to society in general, valuing all faiths and cultures
 - To build strong relationships with the local community, our city and the wider world
- And to do all this as a caring community based on strong Christian values.

The Governing Body and staff of Whinmoor St Paul's Primary School take as our first priority the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, to minimise risk and to work together with other agencies to ensure rigorous arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm and to keep them safe and secure whilst in our care.

Introduction

At Whinmoor St Paul's School we are committed to valuing and nurturing as individual who will reach their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1998 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasise.

Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for collective worship supports this by:

- Recognising that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:
 - worship God
 - reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
 - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
 - consider spiritual and moral issues
 - respond to the worship offered
 - respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
 - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
 - begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
 - Ensuring the daily act of collective worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar
- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:
 - Inspiring and transformational
 - Follow the 5-part sequence of setting the scene, gathering, engaging, responding and sending
 - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
 - Develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and focus on Christian values
 - include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
 - Involves pupils through members of the Worship group opening and closing worship and through pupils making contributions to worship
 - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
 - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
 - will take place in the school hall and in class rooms
 - Respecting the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship Content of daily worship

Content of Daily worship

As a Church of England School the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a half termly focus on Christian Values selected by the pupils (with support from the Worship Committee).
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Celebrate festivals from other worldviews and religions, in order to aid understanding of the diverse and multicultural society in which we live.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching
- Use the school prayers, Lord's Prayer and other prayers written by pupils
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

Special Services and Visitors

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St Paul's Church. We hold our Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in church. Where possible we also invite other members of the community in to lead worship. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective worship.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the Head Teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school Linked Documents:

- R.E Policy

Collective Worship Timetable

- **Monday** – Worship relating to our Christian Value – Whole school in the hall
- **Tuesday** – Phase Worship in classes
- **Wednesday** – Singing Worship
- **Thursday** – Class-led worship in the hall
- **Friday** – Worship celebrating our school community

Resources to support Collective Worship

- Church of England website – <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>
- Oak Academy website and resources - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies>
- <https://whinmoorstpauls.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Liturgical-Calendar.pdf>
- Flippin Praise

'We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils.

Inclusive PSHE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.'

