

Collective Worship

Autumn 2026

Review Date: Autumn 2028

Vision statement: Every member of Waverley Abbey is a child of God who learns to live a life of love, compassion and hope within our school family; becoming the person that God has planned for them. We want children to leave having grown in faith and courage and established on their spiritual journey.

All things are possible for one who believes. Mark 9:23

Daily acts of worship aim to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff, to come together each day. In Church of England schools, collective worship should be inclusive of pupils and staff of all faiths and beliefs or none, invitational where all are invited, not required, to participate, and inspiring all to reflect on their lives and the world, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

The worship helps the school to recognise the way Christians walk with God in their daily lives. It also shows the community how God's Spirit works as it guides and strengthens us to live as God intends. We consider the preoccupations of the world as well as our own personal journey recognising the part we play and deepening our understanding of 'On Earth as it is in heaven'.

Each child brings to collective worship their own unique being, personality and background. The opportunities they are offered invite them to explore who God is, the world around them, and through this to understand their place in their school, their wider community and their world. They will do this in their own way, from their own perspective and at their own speed. SMSC development in this context is perhaps best viewed through the lens of relationships:

- of each child with themselves as they develop their sense of their uniqueness, who they are and who they are becoming.
- in the lived-out Christian values of the school through expressions of community – a community which is positive, inclusive, loving and forgiving, as Jesus was, and which models the perfect relationship at the heart of the Trinity.
- for some, with God who is love, the source of all wisdom, and the provider and sustainer of all things.
- through a growing sense of identity with their own culture, whilst also developing a capacity to welcome and celebrate the richness of the 'other' and appreciate the significance of faith within British culture.

The format for the assembly underpins the general ethos of the school; well planned, well lead and with a sense of dignity, awe and wonder. Although the theme of worship changes weekly, Waverley Abbey's Christian vision and values are central and are referred to as part of each theme.

The act of worship encourages the whole community to build a strong team of people all working together and building each other up in faith. Stories, poems, plays, music, symbols, dance, signs and pictures are used to help the children think about a wide range of issues.

Celebrating success is a strong element of particular assemblies e.g. Good News on Fridays, linking this to the talents and gifts that God has given everyone, and how we should always try and work for the common good.

Worship should always:

- be well planned, benefitting from long term plans which have drawn on the expertise of staff, clergy and the local Christian community.
- be thoughtfully delivered in an age-appropriate manner. All pupils should feel included and involved, regardless of ability, religion or culture.



- have as its central focus the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- be both an educational and an inspirational experience.
- underpin the Christian values of the school.
- offer opportunities for spiritual development and growth through experiences of stillness, worship and reflection.
- be participatory – inviting pupils to join in with prayer, thought, reflection and silence. Worship will at various times in the school year give opportunity to:
- welcome visiting speakers or participants who are well suited to the delivery of good quality school worship.
- reflect elements of an Anglican style of worship in line with the tradition in the parish.
- involve creative participation by pupils, giving them the opportunity to use their gifts
- experience diverse liturgical traditions which reflect the world-wide church and diversity within the UK.
- celebrate special occasions and seasons in the Church's year and the life of the nation/community.
- mark events of national and international significance.
- It may also, at certain times, reflect the diversity of beliefs within the school, valuing the practices and traditions of others who are a part of the school community, as well as other important times of celebration for wider religious communities.

Classroom worship allows all classes to have small acts of worship. In these assemblies, the aim is to provide the children with the opportunity to pray together, reflect on class issues and be taught Christian principles at a well-pitched level.

The songs chosen in assemblies aim to show a diversity of musical traditions. They are presented in a way which allows the songs to become prayerful reflections and joyful songs of praise. Candles are used to underline that Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the World and visual presentations accompany the vast majority of assemblies.

Collective Worship timetable

Monday: Headteacher

Tuesday: Class based collective worship

Wednesday: Singing (Creative Arts lead)

Thursday: Living and learning through values/ what's in the news? - AHTs

Friday: Good News Assembly

Services are sometimes held at All Saint's Church, Tilford. Year 6 attend the Leavers' Service at Guildford Cathedral in the summer term and work is done annually on playing an active part in this service.

Whilst it is expected that all pupils attend the daily assembly, each individual's faith stance is respected and valued. Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their child from religious worship and teaching. However, as parents have opted for a Church School we anticipate that this should not arise. We seek to keep parents informed with details of events which reflect our Church School Status and ethos.