



## Collective Worship

Spring 2021

Review Date: Spring 2022

**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, staff and sometimes parents, to come together each day. In sharing an act of worship, the community seeks to promote the Christian principles of prayer, praise, teaching and celebration.

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'. Although the focus in assembly is predominantly Christian, the contribution of other faiths and those with no faith is acknowledged and respected. An atmosphere of open dialogue is encouraged and fostered.

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.

Direct teaching is given from the bible in a non-confrontational way, being particularly careful to value each individual's family background and not to create any feelings of indoctrination. The reflections and prayers are lead in a variety of ways to show that spirituality is personal and that styles of approach to God can vary.

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.

The acts of worship are planned by the Headteacher alongside the worship team but seek to include the views, ideas and contributions of all sections of the community as opposed to being dictated by any one person.

The school has direct links to St Thomas on the Bourne which works closely with All Saints church, and members of several parish clergies come in fortnightly to support worship at Waverley Abbey.

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



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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: Hymn Practice

Wednesday: SLT assembly

Thursday : Assistant Head and clergy assembly

Friday: Good News Assembly

Whole school services also take place to celebrate the events in the Anglican calendar: Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter etc.

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.