



WILLOW DENE

SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed policy agreed by GB on:	Autumn 2025
Reviewed policy shared with staff on:	Autumn 2025
Policy to be reviewed again on:	Autumn 2028
Committee responsible for review:	Policy Committee

Collective Worship policy

Rationale

At Willow Dene we are thoroughly committed to providing relevant and meaningful opportunities for learning across the curriculum. We are required by the Education reform Act 1988 to provide for an act of collective worship. The nature of this, at Willow Dene, will reflect our children's cognitive, emotional and social levels of development. We will respect the right of parents to withdraw their child, but this is unlikely to be necessary because we will ensure that the experience for our children and young people is meaningful and reflective of our child and young person-focused ethos of inclusivity. Collective Worship will be a personalised experience for every child, look different for every class, and have a focus on the values that underpin all that we do. These values of respect, trust, forgiveness, positivity, co-operation, honesty, patience, freedom, thoughtfulness, happiness, courage and aspiration are fundamental to the Christian faith but also underpin the beliefs of most faith traditions. Nothing that we do will be denominational or doctrinaire.

Aims

Our aim is for children and young people to develop

- a sense of their own worth,
- an awareness of the lives and achievements of others
- a sense of awe and wonder
- a spirit of calm contemplation
- a willingness to participate
- a sense of belonging and community

Equality

At Willow Dene we value every one of our children, young people and staff. We celebrate diversity and are committed to countering all forms of discrimination (whether by individuals or systems), particularly those that result in inequalities and injustices. We will, through our acts of collective worship, foster an ethos of acceptance and justice. We will strive to ensure that all children and young people feel valued and have a positive self-image. We believe that, in encouraging and nurturing the process of self-reflection we will enhance the learning potential in all of our children and young people.

Content, planning and delivery

At Willow Dene we believe that Collective Worship is a shared responsibility. Each teacher will plan a time for quiet reflection at the end of each day. As every one of our classrooms is unique, the format of this will look and feel different in every class. All class timetables will feature a designated time which will provide an opportunity for collective sharing about the day's experiences, a celebration of achievement and a focus on the Willow Dene values.

Music Assembly

All children and young people will attend a weekly Music Assembly, which is planned and led by the music lead. This is an opportunity for class groups to come together in collective celebration. During music assembly, children and young people will be supported to develop a love of music through the use of familiar songs and music. They will be provided with opportunities to perform as part of an ensemble and develop a sense of enjoyment of being part of a musical community.

Through music assemblies, children and young people will be exposed to different sounds including songs, instruments, live and recorded music by listening to a variety of musical genres (pop, rock, jazz, classical etc). This will support children to make responses towards music and enable them to determine musical preferences of their own over a period of time.

During the assembly, children will be given the opportunity to play and create sounds through body percussion or using instruments by exploring musical techniques such as tapping, rubbing, sweeping, and striking to create rhythms and sequences in conjunction with musical elements such as dynamics and tempo. Children and young people will also be supported to develop their musicality by ensuring space is provided for children to physically respond to music, supported or unsupported, using movement, vocalisation and through movement with instruments.

Because of the repetitive structure of the assembly, it will allow children and young people the opportunity to develop the confidence to respond, react and perform music as individuals as well as part of an ensemble and lead elements of the session where appropriate.

Assemblies will vary in content in association with the school's curriculum programs of study for early development, basic concept and secondary to ensure the sessions are as meaningful as possible.

EYFS Sharing Time

On the EYFS timetable the weekly act of collective celebration is to be found under the heading 'sharing time'. This is planned for and delivered by the EYFS leads.

Children and young people will be supported to view these times as unique to any other time during the day, when they will look, listen and reflect together as class or school community. Where appropriate, music will be used both as an auditory cue and to create an environment of calm. In some classrooms candles will be used to help children and young people to focus their attention. The length of these special times will vary depending on the needs of the children.

Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation process for collective worship will be included in the overall cycle of monitoring by Link Leaders for class groups, with a focus on routine times of the day. The Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Related Documentation

Induction Policy
Equal Opportunities Policy
Race Equality Policy
Teaching and Learning Policy
School Development Plan
SMSC Policy
Willow Dene School vision and values