



Ways in Which Collective Worship Might Be Considered the 'Heartbeat' of School Life at St Wilfrid's CE Primary

At St Wilfrid's, collective worship is more than a daily ritual — it is the **spiritual heartbeat of the school**, influencing every aspect of school life and community interaction. Rooted in the school's vision, *"Learning and growing together; Living life in all its fullness"* (John 15:1-17), worship brings together pupils, staff, and the wider community to reflect on core Christian values such as kindness, love, respect, faith, resilience, and joy. These shared experiences provide a sense of belonging and purpose, reinforcing the school's mission to help every individual thrive spiritually, morally, and socially.

Collective worship serves as a daily reminder of the school's guiding principles, helping all members of the community to embody the values they discuss. Worship offers a rhythm to the school week, providing moments of reflection, celebration, and connection. This shared practice helps pupils and staff grow together, encouraging everyone to live life in its fullness, as Jesus intended (John 10:10).

Collective worship is designed to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring for all. It is led daily by the Headteacher, members of SLT, and teachers, with weekly contributions from the Vicar or church representatives, visitors, such as Riverside Church, and WOW (We Own Worship) student leaders. Our Diversity Champions also play a key role, celebrating DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) by highlighting inspiring individuals from the local community and beyond. Together, these elements ensure worship is a meaningful, unifying experience for the whole school community.

What Does a Typical Act of Collective Worship Look Like at St Wilfrid's?

A typical act of collective worship at St Wilfrid's CE Primary is **structured, reflective, and inclusive**, designed to engage pupils and staff in meaningful spiritual exploration. Worship sessions often begin with the **lighting of a candle and an opening liturgy**, such as:

"At the start of our time together we light our candle and remember Jesus' words: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'"

Worship typically includes:

- **A Bible reading or story** aligned with the theme of the week, often led by the headteacher or a visiting speaker such as Rev Sam or the Worship Committee.
- **Discussion of Christian values** such as kindness, respect, and joy, linking them to everyday experiences.
- **Reflection time** for pupils and staff to consider how these values can be lived out in their own lives.
- **Songs or hymns** to foster a joyful atmosphere, reinforcing the worship message through music.
- **Closing liturgy and prayers** to conclude the session, such as:

"At the end of our time together, we say to each other: 'May God help you to learn and to grow today.'"

Special worship events include **Golden Box Worship** and **Celebration Worship**, which focus on achievements, resilience, and personal growth. These sessions help pupils connect worship themes to their actions and successes, reinforcing their sense of purpose and belonging.

What Is the Impact of Collective Worship on the Flourishing of Pupils and Adults, and How Do You Know?

The impact of collective worship at St Wilfrid's is evident in how it **nurtures the spiritual, moral, and emotional growth** of both pupils and staff. Worship reinforces the school's values, creating a compassionate and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and supported.

Impact on Pupils:

- **Spiritual Growth** – Pupils develop a deeper understanding of Christian teachings and values, helping them to make moral decisions in daily life.
- **Sense of Belonging** – Worship offers a strong sense of community, where pupils feel connected to their peers, staff, and the wider world.
- **Personal Reflection** – Through reflection logs, pupils are encouraged to engage personally with worship themes, thinking critically about how they apply to their lives.
- **Character Development** – Worship promotes resilience, kindness, and joy, helping pupils to face challenges with a positive outlook.

Impact on Adults:

- **Shared Purpose** – Worship brings staff together around a shared vision, enhancing teamwork and community spirit.
- **Spiritual Reflection** – Staff are given time to reflect on their own values and practices, leading to personal and professional growth. It offers a moment of 'stillness' in a busy day.
- **Role Modelling** – Adults in the school model Christian values which creates a culture of respect and care.

How Do We Know?

The impact of collective worship is assessed through:

- **Pupil Reflection Logs** – Pupils record their thoughts and responses to worship themes, showing how they internalise values and how worship affects and impacts them.
- **Staff Observations** – Teachers and staff note the positive changes in pupils' behaviour, attitudes, and understanding of values.
- **Community Feedback** – Parents and community members share how the school's values are reflected in pupils' actions outside of school; living them out as virtues and being recognised and rewarded for that.

Ultimately, collective worship at St Wilfrid's nurtures **the whole child - mind, body, and spirit** - helping them to live out the school's vision of, '*Learning and Growing Together; Living Life in all its Fullness*'. It strengthens the school community by embedding Christian values in everyday life, making worship the spiritual foundation on which all learning and growth is built.