

Rishton Methodist Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2023 - 24



Our Christian Vision

As a Methodist school, our values lie at the heart of all we are and do. Within our caring Christian community, where all are welcome, everyone is encouraged to be the best that they can possibly be. We promote respect, compassion and resilience to prepare our children for the challenges of an ever-changing world and encourage our whole school community to 'Rise up...take courage and do it" (Ezra 10:4).

Worship in Rishton Methodist School

Aims

As a Methodist Primary School, it is our aim to instil the values, traditions, and beliefs of the Methodist Church in all of our pupils, as well as knowledge of the broader Christian faith. We aim to instil the following values:

- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Service
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Trust
- Truthfulness
- Compassion
- Community
- Forgiveness
- Respect
- Hope

We also wish to encourage our children to develop their own spirituality and relationship with God through a varied programme of worship. This includes stories, drama, musical worship, reflection, discussion, prayer and awe and wonder (WOW moments).

As an inclusive school, we encourage the children to understand and respect the views of those from other or no faith traditions, so that they can be tolerant of the many beliefs and traditions that make up our multi-cultural community and society. Most importantly, times of collective worship allow the school to share, celebrate and affirm our sense of community, strengthening the ethos of the school.

Planning and Organisation

There is a daily act of worship for all children which always includes singing and prayer. Over the week, children will engage with worships involving reflection, hearing God's word through Bible stories or real life stories based on our core values. All acts of worship will be predominantly Christian based and focus on the word of God.

A worship rota is developed for each half term, which includes the celebration of key Christian festivals, Saints' days and the recognition of other important events and celebrations including those from other faiths. The worship timetable is written by Mrs Higgs (Headteacher).

The structure of collective worship is as follows:

Below is an overview of the whole school weekly worship opportunities provided to further instil the values, traditions, and beliefs of the Methodist Church in our pupils, as well as knowledge of the broader Christian faith.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Worship in school	Whole School Worship in Church	Whole School Singing Worship or Worship Lead by Reverend Mark	Whole School Child Led Worship or In Class Worship	Celebration Worship

- **Monday:** Whole School Worship – led by Mrs Higgins, Mrs Grisedale or Mr Steele.
- **Tuesday:** Whole School worship in Church – led by ministers or church representatives.
- **Wednesday:** Bi-weekly rota of whole school singing worship, led by two teaching staff then Reverend Mark leading formal worship for the whole school.
- **Thursday:** Worship is child led and will be a whole school worship led by individual classes where parents and families are invited to attend, particularly those of children who are holding the worship. Or worship will be held in each class, led by the class teacher and different children.
- **Friday:** Celebration worship – a chance for children to share and celebrate their news and successes in school. Parents and families are invited to attend.

Alongside our weekly worship pattern we additionally offer further worship and spiritual opportunities across the year, such as:

- Daily prayer: Each school day begins and ends with a morning and evening prayer led by the prayer leaders and their class teacher. Prayers are additionally said before meals.
- Seasonal Worship: Special worship services are held during Advent, Lent and other significant seasons. These are led by Reverend Mark or other church representatives within our linked Methodist Church or by teaching staff members.
- Out of School Worship: All children and all adults are always welcome at Rishton Methodist Church. Education Sundays further provide out of school worship opportunities, which are often frequented by both staff and pupils of Rishton Methodist Primary School.

Involving the Children

Children are given the opportunity to lead worship through class workshops which are planned with the class teacher and delivered by the children. Our school 'All You Can' team also plan and lead worship on occasion, choosing a theme or current event that they want to share with the rest of the school. We encourage all the children to take part in our acts of worship through songs, prayers, reflection and

discussion. Every class also has a Prayer Leader who leads morning, lunch-time and home-time prayers.

Working with Our Churches

Representatives of Rishton Methodist Church, lead acts of worship on a weekly basis within church. Acts of Worship for major festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Ash Wednesday are also celebrated together at Rishton Methodist Church. Mr Schumann, our church worker, also works within school supporting the children in memory verse activities, organising and planning worships and supporting our singing practises.

Parents and Families

Parents and families are actively encouraged to join us in our Thursday and Friday worships in school. All are welcome to join during these times. We also provide open invites to families and parents at Church on Tuesdays and for our large worships where we celebrate Harvest, Advent, Christmas and Easter, also held in Church. At the end of the year parents and families are invited to join us in our final Awards worship and Year 6 leavers' worship.

Other Visitors

Wherever possible, other visitors are invited to join or lead our acts of worship. These are often linked to times when the school is involved in fundraising or special events.

The Right to Withdraw

As a Church School, we actively encourage all children to take a full part in our acts of worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from any act of worship on personal religious grounds. In these circumstances, parents would be asked to discuss their views with the head teacher before a decision is made. Alternative arrangements for the child's supervision would be made during times where their class are involved in an act of worship. Staff or pupils have the right to withdraw from acts of worship. The prospectus makes it clear to parents about the right to withdraw their child from worship. This right is also applicable to staff, although we would expect all staff to be supportive of the Christian ethos of the school.

Signature from Governors:	Date: 13 th May 2024
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Signature of Head teacher:	Date: 13 th May 2024
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Date of next review:	1 st September 2024
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