



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL

This policy outlines the nature and provision of daily collective worship at Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School. Collective worship is for all children, except those who are withdrawn by their parents. It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Our school welcomes families from all faiths and religions. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

## 2. NATURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship plays a central role in our Church School; it models our school's Christian ethos and values, and helps set our Church School identity.

*Learning Together, in God's Love is accomplished through our aims:*

1. To provide a happy, safe and caring environment following our Christian Values.
2. To provide high quality teaching, learning and assessment to ensure the best possible outcomes for all pupils.
3. To ensure outstanding personal development, behaviour and welfare.
4. To have high aspirations in all aspects of school life for our school community.

Collective worship is valued. This is a special time in the school day.

Below are some of the accepted aims of collective worship in a Church school:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour.
- To help children discover their place in the world.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.



- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as children of God.
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion.
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.



Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- Gives children the space to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

### WORSHIP OF A BROADLY CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

The majority of acts of worship must be of a "broadly Christian character", and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational.

If we are to be inclusive in our worship in this school, taking the family backgrounds of the children into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. It is therefore appropriate in this school to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all children to be required to address Him in prayer.

Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity.



### 3. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Executive Headteacher has overall responsibility for the organisation of Collective Worship.

Collective worship is organised as a single act of worship for all children (except those withdrawn by parents) on some days and as separate acts for children in different age groups on others. Our EYFS have in class daily collective worship when appropriate.

Daily collective worship is timetabled for the following groups:

Day	Time / Location	Classes involved	Led by
Monday	10.10 – 10.30am Hall	Y1 – Y6	Executive Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday – Music Worship	10.10 – 10.30am Hall	R – Y6	Executive Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday – In class worship	10.10 – 10.30am	R – Y6	All teachers
Thursday – Church	10.10 – 10.30am St. Peter’s Church	R – Y6	Local Church representative
Friday Celebration Worship	10.10 - 10.30am	Y1 – Y6	Deputy Headteacher / SLT

Each class will plan and lead two class collective worships annually. Parents and families are invited to attend all class-led collective worship.

Music for listening and singing for collective worship will be organised by the Deputy Headteacher.

Members of the local clergy are invited to take part in collective worship weekly and to lead special services at least once every half term for example, for Harvest, Christmas, Ascension, Pentecost and a Leavers Service. For Easter the clergy lead a Holy week.

At the beginning of each half term, a whole school assembly takes place for all staff and all children from Y1 – Y6 to introduce the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) project theme.



We focus on a Christian value each half term over a 2 year cycle: generosity, compassion, perseverance, justice, service, truthfulness, respect, friendship, courage, thankfulness, forgiveness and trust.

We have a Collective Worship annual plan which includes SEAL themes, Christian Values and major festivals from other religions.

#### 4. FORMAT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Staff have agreed to follow a 4 part structure: Candle (welcome), Windows (learning), Mirrors (reflecting) and Doors (responding)

We will have the following –

- **Music to listen to** as children enter the hall.
- **Good Morning to the adult leading, Good Morning** everyone (not in class worship)
- Light a candle to indicate the start of collective worship – Let's light a candle as we think about ..... (there may also be other visual foci on the worship table e.g. sometimes a cross but also other artefacts relating to the theme)
- **Opening greeting** e.g. The Lord be with you, and also with you.
- **Message / Story / Input / Drama**
- **Hymn or song to sing**
- **Let us pray** – children can put their hands together and can say Amen at the end if they choose to. – Let's get ourselves ready to pray
  - o **Closing greeting** e.g. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen
- **Blow candle out**
- **Music to listen to** as children leave the hall.

**We have agreed to place a high priority on the involvement of children within collective worship.**

Resources used include the Diocese Prayer booklet and SEAL assembly resources e.g. Imaginor resources (Jack in the box, Roots and Fruits, Oscar out of the box), A teacher's dozen complete fun sized assemblies, Values for life – A resource to support the teaching of Christian Values in Primary Schools from The Church of England.

We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together



- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

## 5. PLANNING

Each half term we have a theme which fits in with the SEAL project and also a value which we focus on. Within this theme we also celebrate significant events in the Christian calendar and other religious festivals. Each half term is planned carefully with St. Peter's Church team. We also plan the use of visitors to enhance Collective Worship.

We see collective worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives.

### **The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:**

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories.
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days.
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.
- Singing a wide variety of hymns, from traditional to rap.
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine.
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection.
- Using Psalms with simple responses.

### **Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:**

- Using prayers from Common Worship



- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.
  - The Lord is here / His Spirit is with us
  - Peace be with you/ and also with you
  - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / In the name of Christ, Amen
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Eucharist's
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local parish church

**We choose from a range of methods, including:**

- Pupil's contributions – we use a resource 'Worship works' which supports children who are keen to develop their skills as worship leaders. Children are active in all aspects of our worship.
- Sacred and secular stories / readings
- Dance / drama
- Prayer / songs / hymns / music
- Artefacts / natural materials
- Visual aids / focal points
- Dialogue / creative silence
- Visitors

**6. SUCCESS CRITERIA AND REVIEW**

We evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme



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- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
  - A sense of occasion
  - Good order
  - Staff affirmation
  - A sense of challenge
  - A place in the overall plan of the school
  - Enrichment of pupil's experience

This policy will be reviewed in October 2019 or in light of any future legislation or guidance.