



Collective Worship Policy 2022

Mission Statement

We are a Church school and through our distinct Christian values we enrich the lives of our children and create an environment where there is opportunity to "Let Your Light Shine" (Mathew 5:16)

Our values are brought to life through our Love of Learning; our Faith; our Respect and our Partnerships.

Love of Learning - We provide an inclusive, meaningful, enjoyable curriculum to inspire and encourage pupils to reach their full potential. We nurture the social and emotional development of all our pupils and teach them how to stay safe and lead healthy lives. We develop their confidence and independence and encourage them to question and reason rationally.

Faith - We are proud to be a Church of England School. We promote the values and beliefs of the Christian faith whilst respecting and celebrating the beliefs and cultures of others.

Respect - We develop each child's sense of self-worth as well as their sense of responsibility. We encourage children to value diversity and the wonder of creation.

Partnerships - We work together with our families, the Church and the local and wider community, valuing their support.

HEADTEACHER: Mr Chris Burman

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Mrs Sue Owen

This policy is reviewed three-yearly by the Local Governing Body (LGB).

Policy reviewed by the LGB

December 2022

This Policy should be taken and used as part of Brent Knoll CEVC Primary School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, as an instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school. It is consistent with the overall aims of the School as expressed in the prospectus and mission statement and the Christian foundations of the School as expressed in the Trust Deed i.e. the principles and practices of the Church of England. It takes into account the guidelines for worship in "Church School Leadership" - a handbook for Headteacher's of Church of England Schools, and Framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) as well as recent legislation related to Collective Worship (see DfES Circular1/94).

This policy statement has been formally adopted by the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher.

1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To develop a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values.
- To teach children how to worship.

2 GUIDELINES

2.1 Collective Worship should be a "rich source of inspiration for the whole school, and a focus of all that is good and worthy of celebration" (Bath and Wells Diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988).

2.2 Worship is a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God.

It differs from "Assembly", which implies a gathering of people. It involves members of the School coming together and participating. We expect everyone to take an active part in our Collective Worship.

2.3 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", we normally base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the variety of faiths and beliefs of all members of the School community.

2.4 In addition to Collective Worship we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the School and the wider community.

3 ORGANISATION

3.1 We hold a daily act of Collective Worship either as a whole school, class or groups of classes. In a typical week: Monday's Collective Worship is a celebration of the previous week's successes; Tuesday is a time to reflect on a key value or theme; Wednesday is as for Tuesday, but in key stage or class; Thursday is a time to sing; Friday is a collective worship which may be based on an issue or theme from the world at large.

3.2 We regard Collective Worship as a special time and expect children to behave respectfully. Collective Worship is a time for quiet reflection.

Children are expected to listen carefully to the teachings, participate fully in songs and hymns and to think about and reflect upon what they have heard and sung.

When we pray, all children are expected to sit quietly with their eyes closed and their hands together.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The Act of Worship, whether in the hall or classroom follows a recognisable format:

- Worship lasts between 5 and 20 minutes depending on the timetable.
- Worship normally includes an appropriate hymn or song.
- There is always a prayer or quiet time for reflection.
- The worship always has a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation.
- Drama, mime, poetry, Bible readings, artefacts, musical instruments and audio visual material may all be used to enhance worship.
- Any notices are clearly separated from the act of worship.
- Children are expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly.
- Music is played as children enter and leave the hall.

3.4 Collective Worship is normally led by a member of the teaching staff but at times local clergy or representatives of local religious groups may lead our time of worship.

All those responsible for leading an act of worship will be informed of the current themes. Collective Worship themes are displayed in the staffroom and shared in staff meetings, the minutes of which are available for all staff.

3.5 The themes for Collective Worship are based on the traditions of the Christian faith; we observe Christian festivals and mark the events of the Christian Calendar, and developing awareness of other faiths and beliefs, and British Values. The Headteacher plans the Collective Worship themes to ensure continuity and progression as children move through the School.

At times, the themes will also relate to areas of learning being covered as part of the School curriculum and will include opportunities for the development of PHSCE as well as Christian Values.

The worship is planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive.

- 3.6 As noted above in 3.1, we have an achievement assembly each week where children's achievements are celebrated.
- 3.7 The whole school attends St Michael's Church for a service at least once every half-term.
- 3.8 Governors are always welcome to attend Collective Worship.
- 3.9 Where appropriate resources are listed on the Collective Worship timetable. Additional resources are available from the RE boxes held in the School and a wide variety of resources are also available on loan from the Diocesan Resources Centre in Wells.
- 3.10 The School has decided to maintain learning and saying the traditional version of The Lord's Prayer. The children from Y1 onwards learn the meaning of the words used in the old version and its language is reviewed annually.

4 RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend Collective Worship.

Parents can request permission for their child to be excused from Collective Worship and if this happens, the School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

- 4.2 The Head teacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

5 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Foundation Governor. The Foundation Governor liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to Governors.

6 CONCLUSION

Collective Worship is an important aspect of school life. It is a time where staff and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm Christian beliefs and values. It makes a valuable contribution to the overall wellbeing of the School and our Christian ethos.