



BRIDGE & PATRICKBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP : POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Collective Worship Co-ordinator : Julia Perfect

Date of review : September 2017

Date of next review : Summer 2019

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Our aims

- To inspire and ignite a passion for life-long learning.
- To set no limits on learning.
- To develop great thinkers who embrace challenges.
- To promote curiosity, enthusiasm and independence.
- To ensure challenge and excellence through a creative and inclusive curriculum.
- To develop confident children who are happy, healthy and emotionally strong.
- To enable children to learn and grow as individuals within a caring community.
- To encourage children to have a Christian approach towards a caring and safe community.
- To foster a desire to learn and take on challenges with confidence.
- A freedom to be an individual to explore and reflect.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship at Bridge and Patricbourne CEP School will support the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for children and staff:

- to have a daily focal point within the life of the school
- to explore a relationship with God
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to deepen and widen the experience of those in our school community so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop respect for and an understanding and tolerance of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging and to recognise that there is more to life than material possessions

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- to develop pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, by fostering a growing awareness of their ability to reflect on life
- to make a positive contribution to the local Parish churches
- to experience and contribute to worship at our local Parish church

The Anglican Christian Tradition

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

- using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saint's Days
- learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer
- singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to rap
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using psalms with simple responses – Taize style

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- using prayers including those 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 and serve the Lord/*in the name of Christ,*
- *Amen*

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. As a Voluntary Controlled School we must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all children every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage, year group or class.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may take the form of:

- whole school gatherings
- Key Stage groups
- Year groups or class groups

These usually follow a weekly timetable as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday: | Reception and Key Stage 1 in Hall Key Stage 2 class acts of worship |
| Tuesday: | Key Stage 2 in Hall Reception and Key Stage 1 class acts of worship |
| Wednesday: | Reception and Key Stage 1 in Hall Key Stage 2 class acts of worship |
| Thursday: | Key Stage 2 in Hall Reception and Key Stage 1 class acts of worship |
| Friday: | Whole School Act of Worship |

The act of worship may take place at any time of day. It should be arranged so that the most effective use of time is made. Class worship and Key Stage worship should last 15 minutes and whole school 30 minutes.

Special acts of worship take place from time to time to mark key events in the Christian calendar such as Easter, Christmas and Harvest as well as the beginning and end of terms. We see these acts of worship as a celebration of school life to be shared by pupils, staff and parents.

Three times a year, the school community holds an act of worship in the village church, where all stakeholders are invited.

Leaders of worship

All teaching staff lead class and key stage acts of worship to ensure all stakeholders recognise the importance and value of acts of worship to our Christian distinctiveness.

Whole school acts of worship are led by senior leaders and those staff who wish to have the opportunity to do so.

The Vicar and church lay-reader lead Key stage acts of worship on a regular basis.

Outside speakers are also invited into the school to lead an act of worship (retired clergy, gospel singers, representatives of Christian charities).

Themes for Collective Worship

Long Term Planning

The Collective Worship Leader produces a timetable of weekly themes covering two terms at a time, these are developed from the four-year cycle of themes produced by the diocese. These themes incorporate the schools' distinctively Christian values.

Special events related to the life of the school community, for example Christian Aid week, are integrated into this timetable.

Medium Term Planning

Within this timetable, links to Bible verses and stories are made explicit along with other available resources for prayer, reflection and pupil participation.

Short Term Planning

The person responsible for leading the act of worship will plan within the guidelines set out above.

A special table in the Hall provides a point of focus for collective worship; each classroom also has a small display as a focal point for the children. Both include a candle, the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer and a small cross.

The start of collective worship is marked by the lighting of a candle and the Gathering. The leader uses the phrase '*Jesus said I am the Light of the World*' to which children reply; '*Lord, you are our lamp, you turn our night into day, guide us and help us on our daily path*'. A wide range of practices may be used within collective worship, for example;

- Music - Hymns, songs, folk songs, orchestral
- Readings - Biblical and other stories and poems
- Prayers - silent, spoken, read, formal. (The Lord's Prayer and School Prayer are featured regularly in worship)
- Silence, Meditation, Dance, Drama, Storytelling
- A Talk – sermon
- Use of devotional objects (paintings, statues, artefacts, incense, crucifix)

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The end of collective worship is marked by the blowing out of the candle and the Send. The Leader uses the phrase 'Go in Peace', to which the children reply 'Go in kindness, go in love.'

Pupil involvement in acts of worship

- Lighting the candle
- Leading the Gathering and Send
- Reading prayers and passages
- Leading parts of worship
- Creating prayers and reflections for class prayer book
- Reading prayer at the end of a school day

Record keeping, Monitoring and Evaluation

Members of the Senior Leadership team will monitor individual acts of collective worship in a range of ways:

- through regular attendance at acts of worship
- through observations which provide evaluation and development points
- through collective worship recording sheets, completed for each class, key stage and whole school
- all staff are encouraged to gauge children's opinion of an act of worship as a means of giving feedback to others in relation to positive impact
- children have opportunities to be actively involved in monitoring and evaluating acts of worship

Resources

A range of resources (story books, variety of interpretations of the Bible, DVDs, different styles of music, posters and pictures) are available in a trolley in the hall and in the deputy-head's office.

Material from the internet may be used to promote thought and reflection in line with the school's online safety policy.

Diocesan website:

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/childrenandschools/collectiveworship/>

Christian values website: www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk

Inclusion

Many of the themes addressed through collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Within the school community, adults leading collective worship will adapt their presentation in order to allow all to participate with equality.

Collective Worship and the Law

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires all pupils in maintained schools to attend a daily act of collective worship. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher to arrange for daily acts of worship to take place.

Legislation requires that in a Church School the daily act of worship should be "...consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Use should be made...of the Parish Church for occasional acts of worship."

All acts of worship must be Christian, however, collective worship may still contain material from other traditions as long as they do not deprive it of its broadly Christian character.

The act of worship is not designated as curriculum time and should not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum.

Collective worship is central to our Christian ethos. It is made clear to parents on the enrolment of pupils that the act of worship is central to the life of this school. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. We request that any parent considering this would first meet to discuss their decision with the Headteacher.

The Christian ethos of the school is emphasised during the appointment process for all members of staff and all staff are asked a question regarding their understanding and support of our distinctive Christian ethos.

Health and Safety

Collective worship follows the school's health, safety and well-being policy guidelines.

Particular issues to be considered are:

- use of lighted candles
- use of electrical equipment, particularly electrical leads
- selection of appropriate material from the internet
- keeping exits clear when larger groups are gathered together
- ensuring adults and children are familiar with routines for evacuation in case of a fire

The themes explored during collective worship will affect children in different ways. Adults should be aware of this and be sensitive to children needing a further time of reflection or an opportunity to discuss issues in more depth.

Training and Guidance

The leader and other members of staff attend training as appropriate and share ideas and outcomes through feedback at staff meetings. The leader is available to support the planning and development of themes and is aware of relevant resources. External support from the diocese and members of the clergy are sought as appropriate.

Review

This policy describes current practice and approaches to collective worship within the school.

The policy will be reviewed in Summer 2019

Julia Perfect – Collective Worship Leader