

Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn



Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted: March 2025

Review date: March 2027



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Updated	March 2025
Reviewed & Agreed by Governors	March 2025
Next Review	March 2027
Head Teacher	Mary Baker
Deputy Head Teacher	Lucy Rose
Chair of Governors	Jane Hinde
Related policy/legislation	RE Policy

RATIONALE

As a Church of England primary school, collective worship is at the heart of our school day and is the foundation on which our Christian school values and ethos is built. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school and heightens our sense of unity. Collective worship is a highly valued and integral part of our school day, supported by all staff and governors. It reaffirms our Christian vision and our associated Christian values of kindness, thankfulness, respect, responsibility, compassion and perseverance and is a vital element in offering opportunities for children and adults to develop their own spiritual identity. Our collective worship is rooted in Christianity and shows due regard for the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils.

THE AIMS OF WORSHIP

- To contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- To develop the children's spiritual understanding
- To develop the children's understanding of the Christian faith
- To provide experiences for all children and understanding of different faiths and cultures
- To explore the school's Christian ethos
- To share and experience cultural differences
- To encourage a sense of personal, social and moral responsibility

- To develop opportunities to share and be courageous advocates
- To build a sense of school family identity
- To be inspirational and engaging for all children and adults, allowing them opportunities to be able to talk about the impact collective worship makes on their relationships, behaviour, choices and day-to-day lives
- To involve all children of different (or no) religious belief in celebrating their personal worth
- To allow children to reflect, express, affirm or challenge commonly accepted personal views and social values
- To provide time for stillness, quiet and reflection
- To be broadly Christian, regularly including Biblical texts, Christian teaching, stories about the life and actions of Jesus, exploration of Big Questions and relating to the school's Christian vision and core Christian values
- To help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and, developing a sense of Christianity as a worldwide faith and understanding that Christians worship in a variety of ways
- Support the school community through times of difficulty and challenge
- Be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals and traditions from a range of cultures and faiths
- To evoke a sense of awe and wonder

CHRISTIAN VISION AND ETHOS

We value every individual in our school community; everyone is special and everyone is unique. We work closely together as a staff team to provide an outstanding educational experience for all children. We value the positive relationship we have with parents, the church, our school governors and the wider school community.

Together we love; together we learn

We base our values for life on the scripture from 1 Peter 4: 8-10:

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”

Our values are:

Kindness
Thankfulness
Respect
Responsibility
Compassion
Perseverance

Each of these values forms the basis for our collective worship themes each half term, during which a range of Bible stories, as well as other quality texts and stories from other religions are used to develop children’s ability to learn about, and from, Christianity and other religions, and provides children with an opportunity to reflect on their relevance to our lives today.

School Christian Value					
<p>Kindness And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32</p>	<p>Thankfulness Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:34</p>	<p>Respect Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10</p>	<p>Responsibility For each one will bear his own load. Galatians 6:5</p>	<p>Compassion Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12</p>	<p>Perseverance And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9</p>
Linked Values					
<p>Creation Honesty Forgiveness Courage <i>Compassion</i> Love</p>	<p>Hope Peace Trust Faith Incarnation</p>	<p>Service Integrity Humility Friendship Generosity Love</p>	<p>Courage Justice Wisdom Integrity Service Salvation <i>Perseverance</i></p>	<p>Empathy Dignity Love Forgiveness Reconciliation <i>Kindness</i> <i>Respect</i></p>	<p>Resilience Motivation Commitment Patience The Trinity <i>Responsibility</i></p>

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Representatives from each year group form our Collective Worship Committee. Pupils of all backgrounds, beliefs and ages are welcome to join the group, which is organised by the RE Subject Lead. Children participate in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship. In addition, they lead special services which take place at church.

PRAYER, REFLECTION AND SILENCE

During each collective worship, children have the opportunity for silent reflection. At least one prayer is shared at the end of collective worship, and children are invited to say ‘Amen’ if they would like to make it their prayer. Silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

We do ask that all children are respectful during prayers using the model that Jesus taught in the bible when teaching his disciples the Lord’s prayer. Our school prayer helps children define the positive aspects of our school as well as giving them a clear frame to follow.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Children take part in a range of services at St. Peter's Church throughout the year, including Welcome service, Remembrance, Christingle, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Leaver's service. These are led by Rev. Andy Larkin or Ann Fawcett. In addition, the church and school work closely together to ensure children play a role in the family services once per month, which are advertised on the school newsletter.

INCLUSION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We believe that a greater level of success from children and staff is achieved by realising and respecting the uniqueness of individuals. Creating a prejudice-free environment, where individuals feel confident and at ease, is a commitment of the school. Therefore, collective worship is inclusive and invitational so that all members of the school community and visitors to the school should feel included and valued during collective worship. In line with our Christian visions, children and adults respect what each member of the school family brings to and takes from collective worship.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The school has a statutory requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship. The law requires the Head teacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship in line with the school's trust deed.

In all church schools the act of worship must be in accordance with the school's trust deed. 'Mainly of a broadly Christian nature' is for community schools. The trust deed is the original conveyance of land for the school and usually states that the land or property was given or bought in order to provide 'religious instruction and worship according to the principles and practices of the Church of England'. All church schools are, therefore, church foundations, which is why they have foundation governors.

We understand and respect that some children who attend Barford St. Peter's are from a different religious background. We respect and welcome the traditions of other faiths and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity.

The rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship is enshrined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. Any parent who wishes this may consult the Head teacher.

Collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Coventry, Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We recognise the importance of marking out the act of collective worship from other assembly activities. To ensure a familiar and welcoming shared experience for all, collective worship in school follows an agreed structure, as set out below. Children and adults learn that Christians, and people of other faiths or none, worship in different ways. This may include using music, song, story, stillness, silence, prayer and reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.

Collective Worship Structure:

1. **Set welcoming and calm atmosphere** – e.g. music, light candle, no distractions , high expectations
2. **Greeting** – ‘May the Lord be with you ... ’ – children reply: ‘... and also with you’
3. **Learning**
4. **Responding**
5. **Themed prayer/The Lord’s Prayer/(School prayer) – including Makaton**
6. **The Grace (with actions) – *May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.***
Or ‘Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.’

CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis and co-ordinated by the Assistant Head Teacher and Collective Worship Lead.

To ensure that children understand key messages, worship themes are chosen carefully to link with the children’s lived experience, their academic learning, the school’s Christian vision and associated Christian values of kindness, thankfulness, respect, responsibility, compassion and perseverance. Reference is also made to other linked values as detailed above. Content may also cover Bible stories, Christian festivals, elements of learning and other issues important to our school community, which includes learning about traditions from other faiths.

Inspirational collective worship engages the children by making connections to local and world issues, events and causes that are of particular interest to the children. Collective worship themes also allow opportunities for children to develop an understanding of virtues such as resilience, honesty, generosity and integrity, which help to develop character and contribute to academic progress.

Adults leading worship plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. Resources such as ‘Roots and Fruits’ and Primary Assemblies are sometimes used to inform and enhance collective worship.

Children play an important role in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship. The Collective Worship Committee steers the way with this, modelling how all children can play their part in contributing to this highly valued aspect of our school day and Christian identity.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Music plays an important part of collective worship, with a piece of music or song often played to set the atmosphere for worship within the learning area as the members of our school community join together and disperse. The member of staff leading worship selects music, usually relating to the theme and content of worship; inviting children, staff and visitors to respond to the music.

Worship through song and singing for enjoyment is a strength of the school. Children study the lyrics of uplifting songs and hymns, reading, reflecting upon and discussing the meaning of the words and phrases. Children consider and discuss what the music and lyrics might mean to Christians and reflect on how the lyrics and message of the song or hymn resonates with them personally. The child regular rejoice in singing with live piano accompaniment.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The RE subject leader, Senior Leadership team, School Governors and St. Peter's Church clergy are responsible for monitoring the standards of the children's work and the quality of teaching in religious education. The subject leader uses specially allocated regular management time to review evidence of the children's work, to observe RE lessons and the learning environment and to speak to the children, across the school. The RE subject leader reports to the governing body, completes an annual audit and prepares an action plan. The foundation governors have a role in monitoring collective worship, reporting to the governing body and providing feedback to the Head Teacher.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Coventry, Statutory Inspections of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Evaluation of Collective Worship is carried out by collective worship committee at least 3 times per year, and may include talking to children and observing worship.

VISITORS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We value partnerships that contribute to the quality of collective worship at Barford St. Peter's C of E (V.A) Primary School. Our Church is at the heart of our community and congregating at St. Peter's enhances worship and spiritual development for our children, staff and families at key points of the liturgical calendar and school year. Worship at Church is planned throughout the school year and led by the children, supported by our Reverend whose words and prayers help to deepen understanding.

Our school families of every faith, or none, are regularly invited to contribute to collective worship, sharing their own experiences and traditions with the school community. Other visitors also contribute to Collective Worship, for example speakers from charities and the local community.

All visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at Barford St. Peter's. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. The Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher are consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Head Teacher.

All collective worship should be “inclusive, invitational and inspirational” (Church of England)

[Click here for collective worship guidance](#)