

Bidford-on-Avon C.of E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2015

Introduction:

This policy has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from local Christian leaders and the Diocese. It acknowledges the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.

The headteacher and governing body have responsibility to ensure a daily act of Collective worship. The headteacher coordinates acts of worship, plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and ensures a record is kept of the content.

At Bidford on Avon C. of E. Primary School we reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand and share in the meaning of Christian worship. It draws on the whole of the curriculum and celebrates all aspects of life in school. Although of mainly Christian character (The Education Reform Act 1988 stipulates that in County schools, most acts of collective worship in any school term must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”), other main faiths, beliefs and ways of life are also explored and respected. It is envisaged that pupils should be able to respond in some way to the opportunity offered to them in collective worship. This means that the worship should be distinct from ordinary school activities in that it reflects the spiritual aspects of life and may be concerned with experiences that stretch into what is not totally understood and beliefs about life that are still being thought through.

Purposes:

Our central aims of collective worship are to:

- Enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- Lead the school community to the threshold of worship in order to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of faith and encourage those of no faith so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Use celebration, silence, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- Raise an awareness through reflection of ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on key issues in their lives, to celebrate their work in school and to recognize the importance of religious belief for people from across the world.
- Reaffirm, strengthen and practice key Christian values (e.g love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community.
- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God’s created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterized by feelings such as awe, wonder, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence.
- Develop a sense of community within the school, the locality and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- Foster a concern for the needs of others.

Cycle of worship

Worship is timetabled daily over the week. The cycle of worship follows the pattern of the church year and incorporates the termly school Christian value, whilst providing the flexibility to respond to current local, national or global issues. A range of people, including local faith groups and visitors lead collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review, achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher, governing body, pupils and the RE subject leader. Useful strategies for evidence collecting include:

- Written observations.
- Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Formal observations with feedback
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, local clergy and visitors.
- Holding regular discussion with colleagues
- Written records of all collective worship summarising key elements
- Annual action plan and report

Evaluation:

Information gathered as part of monitoring will be analysed to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of collective worship by the headteacher, foundation governor and key stakeholders.

Review:

The policy will be reviewed every three years. All staff and visitors leading collective worship will be provided with a copy of the policy.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:

A daily act of worship is held daily for all children regardless of their background, culture or religion

Right to withdraw:

A parent's right to withdraw his/her child from part or all of the act of collective worship is confirmed in the Education Reform Act 1988. Collective worship, however, should provide an opportunity for worship which is appropriate to all participating pupils. If any parents exercises the right to withdraw from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the child's parents.

The Policy for Collective Worship at Bidford School follows the guidance of:

- ◆ Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship
- ◆ School Standards and Framework Act 1998 – Chapter VI
- ◆ Warwickshire SACRE Guidelines on Collective Worship in Maintained Schools.

Guidelines:

- Collective worship is held daily, usually at the end of the day.
- All children attend the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by parental request.
- Children experience stories, celebrations, presentations, festivals and Anglican rituals, including candles to represent the trinity; liturgical colours adorning the front table along with a copy of the bible and the cross.
- There is a set theme planned for each term, which also includes events and religious festivals important to the school and its community, as well as work in progress in the curriculum.
- In its overall planning Collective Worship should contain elements that relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief, the Anglican tradition and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.
- Collective worship should not exclude or alienate pupils who do not come from Christian families or be denominational or sectarian
- Collective Worship may contain non-Christian elements and include a minority of acts of worship within a term, which do not fit this broadly Christian base.
- A variety of presentation e.g. oral, films, slides, music, drama, art dance and visual aids, may be included in the acts of worship.
- Collective worship should be interactive encouraging reflection, challenging questions, role play and feedback.
- Presentations are made by different people e.g. classes, teachers, pupils, invited speakers, local faith groups.
- Children are encouraged to participate or lead collective worship as often as possible.
- A daily record is kept of the content of collective worship.
- Children enter and leave the hall quietly, accompanied by music as appropriate.
- Achievements of children are celebrated by the whole school on Friday with parents and on Thursday within houses.
- Quiet times for reflection and prayers are included in all worship.
- Hymns are included in the majority of collective worship.
- Year 6 pupils organize the setting up of the hall and help lead the service on Thursday and Friday.
- Children are invited to offer personal prayers for inclusion in Thursday collective worship.
- Worship start with the lighting of candles, affirmation of the trinity and dedication of the bible. It ends with a thank you to Jesus when the candles are put out and the bible closed.

Organisation:

- Weekly community church leader/ faith group collective worship (Monday).
- Key Stage Collective Worship once a fortnight (Tuesday).
- Teacher/ Class presentations once a fortnight on rolling programme (Tuesday).
- Weekly Headteacher collective worship (Wednesday).
- Weekly House Collective worship (Thursday).
- Weekly Pupil Achievement Celebration collective worship (Friday).