

# Bottesford C of E Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

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<b>Policy Review Date:</b>	2027/28	Headteacher: Emma Barker	Signature:	Date:
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Name: Karen Allen		Signature:	Date:	

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## Mission Statement

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of our school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Bottesford Church of England Primary School, valuing all children equally and as individuals: 'Aspiring and achieving all together'

## Introduction

Throughout this document, let it be understood that, in our context as a church school, we aim to demonstrate and celebrate Christian values and principles within an environment of love and respect for God, our neighbour and the world around us, (Matthew 22:32-40).

This policy should be taken and used as part of Bottesford Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government, aims and values as a Church of England school.

## Aim

In our Church School, we endeavor to ensure that our Collective Worship is invitational, inclusive and inspiring for the whole school community.

We aim to:

- offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that people worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, and varied liturgical and other traditions of worship and celebration
- help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice and to ensure that leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourage local church community partnerships to support our school effectively in developing our provision for collective worship.

## Principles

In Collective Worship we fully recognise that:

- our school includes children and adults from a range of religious and non-religious backgrounds and aim to celebrate this difference and diversity.
- during Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.
- Our Collective Worship should celebrate the broader curriculum through the use of the highest standards of music, art, drama, literature and other forms of expression.
- Collective Worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to undergird our curriculum, to provide opportunities for stillness and reflection in the midst of life's busyness and to come together to consciously explore and express our vision and values as a school.

## Legal Requirements

The Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998 requires-

- 1) All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on "each school day take part in an act of collective worship." Along with the parental right of withdrawal, teachers retain the right to withdraw from collective worship.
- 2) The requirement is for 'Collective Worship' rather than 'corporate worship' or 'assembly'. 'Assembly' is simply a gathering of the school community and does not necessarily include worship. 'Corporate worship' (e.g. in church) assumes a group of people with shared beliefs and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment. 'Collective Worship' recognises the different background, experience and commitment of children gathered together in school and does not pre-suppose a particular religious commitment.
- 3) The daily act of collective worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the Ethos Statement in the Instruments of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practice of the Church of England.
- 4) For collective worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times. Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for collective worship.

Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils, in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

- 5) The daily worship will normally take place on the school premises. All schools are now able to hold their Act of Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- 6) The daily worship may take place at any time of the school day. However, acts of worship are not curriculum time and should not be subsumed into any part of the curriculum. Acts of worship must be *distinctive from other aspects of school life* and able to be identified as such to meet legal requirements.
- 7) Requests from people outside the school to be involved in the worship should be studied carefully to ensure that they are sympathetic to the school's worship policy.
- 8) Responsibility for the arrangement of collective worship rests with the local governors in consultation with the Headteacher who will:
  - Ensure that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
  - Ensure that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
  - Engage an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.
  - affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
  - celebrate individual and collective achievements.
  - develop a sense of community within the school.
  - celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

## Implementation and Delivery

Our times of Collective Worship are precious and essential parts of our school life. Thus each person leading worship is expected to plan for these occasions with a desire to offer and enable the best that is possible.

## Elements of Worship

There are 4 elements to our Collective Worship:



**Gathering**  
*Welcoming*



**Engaging**  
*WINDOWS*



**Reflecting**  
*MIRRORS*



**Sending**  
*DOORS*

The '**Gathering**' time is where we welcome everyone and aim to create the right



atmosphere for Collective Worship. We mark out this special time by lighting three candles (to represent the Trinity), entering and exiting calmly and quietly, having time for stillness and reflection, saying 'welcome words' and responses together, singing and listening to music.

The '**Engaging**' section of our worship may use a wide variety of interactive stimuli: carefully chosen stories, drama, poems, videos, power-point presentations,



interviews, visitors. These are all carefully chosen based on the themes of Collective Worship. We aim that in this part of our Collective worship everyone can be invited through the *WINDOWS* of Wonder to widen our horizons. Material from religious or secular sources may be used as well as personal anecdotes to help us all explore that which is important in our own and others' lives. The particular Christian scaffold we offer in much of this is aimed to be inclusive so that we might all understand ourselves and each other better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Our times of **Reflecting** that we share together are the most personal part of our acts of worship. These provide the opportunity together for everyone to deepen their understanding, look for questions and ideas to **reflect on** (*like looking in MIRRORS*) and to respond in a range of ways. In our school we aim to provide opportunities for everyone to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer is never imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and the school prayer may all be used. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to help us all to focus.



The final **Sending** part of our Collective Worship helps us all to think about how we might put into action what we have been exploring together. It helps us all to see the rest of the future as *DOORS of Opportunity* to live out our faith/values. We aim to leave our times of Collective Worship with renewed sense of vision and new ideas to explore and express.



### Planning and Organisation

Themes for Collective Worship are planned by the co-ordinator, teachers and the pupil collective worship team using the Roots and Fruits framework as a basis. Planning focusses primarily upon the exploration of a value as follows:

Autumn 1	Respect
Autumn 2	Trust
Spring 1	Generosity and Compassion
Spring 2	Forgiveness
Summer 1	Justice
Summer 2	Service

The Christian calendar and areas of concern or interest shown by pupils, in their own faith, are also taken into account in Collective worship planning.

Whole school Collective Worship is held on 4 days of the week, with key stage worship held on the remaining day.

Whole School Celebration: Once a week on a Friday, the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated.

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- Key Stage 2 classes may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship which may be held at Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and deliver the act of worship in church that is their Leavers' Service;
- In many acts of collective worship, individual pupils are invited to help to lead our time of reflection and prayer
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to support with the 'engaging' element of our worship e.g. to act out or role play situations/stories.
- All classes get an opportunity to be involved in the OTB Bible story telling times.
- All classes take a turn to lead a class-planned worship for parents, which is usually linked to their learning.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Role of Collective Worship Lead**

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the staff and Trustees as well as drawing on advice from regular visiting speakers.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document and plans for collective worship.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up collective worship rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.

- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To ensure that Collective Worship maintains a high profile in the life of the School.

- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship.
- To report to Trustees (and Headteacher if s/he is not the coordinator).
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

### **Collective Worship Team (CWT)**

Pupils Year 5 and Year 6 can volunteer to be a member of the Worship Team. Members take it in turns to carry out routine tasks such as setting up the Worship Table, welcoming and dismissing, organising the music and operating the computer/projector. In addition, they regularly plan and prepare the delivery of the content of Collective Worship with the Worship Leader (e.g. reading the story, acting out, preparing role plays).

### **Visitors**

Visitors who are involved with our Collective Worship are supported to understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at our school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

### **Records and Evaluation**

Records of each assembly should be recorded in the Collective Worship folder which is kept in the Headteacher's office. Records should be written by the person leading the assembly.

Evaluation of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the local governors and this should be organised by the Collective Worship Coordinator in liaison with the Headteacher (if s/he is not the coordinator) and any others involved in the occasion. Evaluations are recorded in the Collective Worship folder through:-

- observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest.
- feedback from pupils.
- comments from parents, visitors and local governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- comments by the teacher.
- Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.
- Formal evaluation takes place once every year.

### **Equal Opportunities Statement**

Equal opportunities should be promoted on the basis that every person deserves equal respect irrespective of age, race, culture, capability or gender.

Our approach to Collective Worship takes into account issues related to multicultural education, special educational needs, gender and personal and social education.

### **Review**

The local governors will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required

## Appendix 1

### The Anglican Heritage

*In all Anglican schools worship should reflect some of the essential features within the rich traditions of Anglican prayer and worship. Church schools cannot be expected to encapsulate all that richness, but when planning worship it is useful to have an idea of the important areas to be explored at some time during the pupil's career.*

1. Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning.
2. Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection).
3. Observing the cycles of the Anglican year: e.g. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Also to acknowledge major Saints' Days.
4. Participating in the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match, as far as possible, the pupil's experience in school and church. There could be special services from time to time e.g. welcoming new pupils to schools, also School Leavers' Service in the Summer Term.
5. Using the collects as a focus for short acts of worship in small groups or for use in the Collective Act of Worship.
6. Identifying a collection of prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
7. Learning traditional responses and prayers, hymns, and psalms which might create a framework for worship within the school.
8. Providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
9. Recognising that the Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed when members of other Churches are invited to lead worship.
10. Experiencing the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinion. This could be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend school worship.
11. Sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in the welcome we offer to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs.

*For some pupils the experience of worship will be tentative and exploratory. For those who have already developed a growing Christian commitment, worship will be the natural outcome of belief, and a place where their deepest thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion with God.*

("Open the Door" - David Barton, Alan Brown and Erica Brown page 12)