



Policy for Collective Worship

Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our theologically rooted Christian vision:

'To love, live and learn together'

Our vision is for all in our school family to:

Love themselves and others as children of God

'Love one another as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)

Live life to the full in all aspects of their development; academically, spiritually, physically, mentally and culturally

'Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Jesus calls us to a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit. Therefore we believe the purpose of education is to nurture and enable every child to thrive and to be the person they are fully capable of being.

Learn to be the best they can be

'And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom...' (Luke 2:40)

Our Vision Statement:

At Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School we welcome everyone to a school community where all can flourish. Underpinned by our Christian values, everyone belongs and is valued as a child of God. We promote academic excellence and the development of character, knowledge and skills to enjoy being our best selves now and in the future.

Our worship also reinforces our agreed Christian values of **Creation, Love, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope, Justice, Respect, Thankfulness, Honesty, Peace, Trust, Community.**

There is a half- termly focus on each of these 12 values which forms a 2 year planning cycle of worship.

Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a school where our distinctive Christian vision shapes all that we do. Worship is central to the life of our school and is the main platform for exploring our school's vision. In our Acts of Collective Worship we aim to reflect the distinctive nature of our Church of England Aided status and to reflect the Christian principles on which the school was established.

Worship is a central part of our school life, taking place daily. Each day there are opportunities for all to gather for a time of reflection and worship. These times are planned to allow space for the ethos and values of our whole school community to be developed and shared.

At Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's our Collective worship aims to be **inspirational, invitational, inclusive** and to have **impact on the lives of those who share in it**. We aim to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join, if they wish.

Our aim is to allow our whole school family to gather; providing quality time for each person, children and adults, to develop in their own spiritual journey.

We believe that Christian worship in a Church of England school is concerned with giving all members of the school community an opportunity to reflect on the nature of God and to take time to develop their own sense of awe and wonder about the world and the people in it. Through Collective worship we offer a space and place for telling the Christian story. We aim to offer an understanding of worship through being able to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical riches of Christianity. Through our Liturgy we explore the nature of the Trinity, God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Also, time to consider our responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebrations and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and adults to:

- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

- To contemplate something of the mystery and wonder of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- To give children an insight into and experience of the basic tenets of the Anglican Church

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- Helps 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
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Organisation and Planning for Collective Worship (see Appendix 1)

There is a time of Collective Worship each day. From Monday to Thursday, this takes place at 9.15am. On Friday, it takes place at 3.00pm and extends into Special Mentions Celebration Worship. All of this worship involves the whole school community.

On some occasions class worship takes place and this gives time for greater reflection and discussion.

Once per month, Class 1 children worship separately from the rest of school, with their worship led by parish clergy.

A worship team of children, clergy and members of the Parish, the Head Teacher and all teachers plan Collective Worship at different times.

Themes are planned and shared half termly and displayed on a worship board in the school hall. These are also shared with parents/carers on our weekly newsletters and on our website.

The child led collective worship team regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their understanding of worship and to design worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

The Parish Open the Book Team works with the children to plan and lead the Collective Worship each Monday morning.

External visitors, (for example our Army Padres) who sometimes leads worship follow our planning and guidance structure.

Our school plans worship systematically and cohesively using a variety of high quality materials including: Roots and Shoots resources from Imaginor publications; Biblical texts, in particular the Lion Storyteller Bible; material from the Diocese of Leeds Education Team, in particular Rhythm of Life for Advent and Lent and Caring for Creation materials. Resources are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with this policy as well as our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with the collective worship leader in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, festivals and significant dates in the churches year. The distinctive and core Christian values of the school are also explored on a half termly basis. Biblical texts are often the focus in acts of worship
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
 - to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and sometimes lead worship.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support collective worship. Governors recognise the need for professional development of staff in the review and delivery of collective worship and ensure training is offered on both an individual and whole staff basis. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with the Diocese of Leeds and accesses the support of the named adviser through the Enhanced Service Plan to ensure that worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates the breadth of acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order for worship to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through the form of questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. This feedback impacts on next steps in future planning.

The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided Schools

- To be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the head teacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Policy Monitoring and Review




This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and link governor for Collective Worship and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every three years.

Last updated: November 2023

See Appendix 1 below for Organisation and Planning Examples



Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School – Collective Worship Planning



	Date:	Theme:	Season of Churches Year and Liturgical Colour:	Music:
<p>Welcome</p>  <p>How will you create a special space where we can feel welcome and can draw close to God eg. using candles, music, artefacts, images</p>	<p>Option 1</p> <p>Leader: "Peace be with you."</p> <p>Response: "And also with you."</p>	<p>Option 2</p> <p>Leader: "The Lord is here."</p> <p>Response: "His Spirit is with us."</p>	<p>Option 3</p> <p>Leader: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart!"</p> <p>Response: "We will tell of all your marvellous works!"</p>	<p>Variation</p>
	<p>Leader: We light three candles and say together: 'We meet in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'</p>			
<p>Learning (Engaging)</p>  <p>What would you like us to learn about God and His world that will be inspiring and thought provoking? Which resources will you use eg story, drama, poetry, art</p>	<p>Planned Resource / Theme</p>			
<p>Reflecting</p>  <p>How will you help us to reflect upon (think about) what God might be saying to use through our worship eg using questions, music, quiet time</p>				

Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's Church of England Primary School – Collective Worship Planning



<p>Responding</p>  <p>How do you think we might respond (be challenged or inspired to take action) as a result of worshipping together? How will multisensory prayer be used to bring us closer to God?</p>	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Variation
	<p>Challenge them to think about an aspect of the theme in a time of silence.</p>	<p>Have several short prayers prepared by children beforehand.</p>	<p>Lead a prayer of response to the message.</p>	<p>Discuss a practical response to the message for individuals, the school or society.</p>	
	Option 1		Option 2		
	<p>Say the School Prayer: 'This is our school'</p>		<p>Say the Lord's Prayer: 'Our Father...'</p>		
	<p>Sing a worship song, connected to the theme</p>				
	<p>Extinguish the candle, saying together - "May the light of God shine from us and the peace of God be with us always. Amen."</p>				
<p>Sending</p> 	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Variation	
	<p>Leader: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Response: "In the name of Christ. Amen."</p>	<p>Say the Grace together: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen."</p>	<p>Together say a sending prayer - "We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen."</p>		

Week of:	Churches Season: Ordinary Time Green Christian Value: Friendship	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6.9.23	Friendship Value focus: Encourage one another and build each other up			Welcome everyone. Blessed to be a blessing. Parish blessed bags. Sing: Colours of Day ND	Encouraging one another (Roots and Fruits p.100) Sing: He's got the whole world in his hands Child Worship Team/ND	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: Together ND
11.9.23	Friendship Value focus: Friends share important things with one another.	The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Lion Storyteller Bible) Sing: Seek ye first the kingdom of God Child Worship Team/ND	'Life in all its fullness' School Clubs Sing: Colours of Day ND	Friends share important things with one another (Oscar out of the Box p.31) Sing: Together ND	School Council and Democracy Sing: Seek ye first AR/School Council	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: He's got the whole world ND
18.9.23	<i>Friendship and Our Golden Rules</i>	Open the Book Team Creation: Genesis Sing: Thank you Lord Parish Open the Book Team	Be kind and helpful Sing: Psalm 23 ND	Look after property Sing: Give me oil in my lamp ND	Listen to one another Sing: The Wise Man Child Worship Team/ND	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: The wise man built his house ND
25.9.23	Friendship Value focus: Jesus' new rule, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'	Open the Book Team A Sad Day: The Garden of Eden; Genesis. Sing-You shall go out with joy Parish OTB Team	Be honest Sing: Jubilate ND	Being generous with our money Sing: Psalm 23 ND	Reception Worship with Rev Mary; Whole School: The Parable of the Great Feast Worship Team/ND	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: Jubilate ND
2.10.23	Caring for Creation and our Eco School St Francis 4th October National Poetry Day 5.10.23	Open the Book Team A Special Promise: Noah's Ark Sing: Mr Noah Built and Ark Parish OTB Team	Our Eco School Sing: He's got the whole world in his hands Eco Team/Worship Team/ND	St Francis of Assisi Sing: Beautiful World ND	National Poetry Day Celebrations Sing: Autumn Days All share poems together/VW	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: Autumn Days ND

9.10.23	Thanksgiving/Caring for our neighbours and the Parish Open Pantry	Open the Book Team God's Friend: Abraham Sing: Autumn Days Parish OTB Team	Class based worship. Preparing for Harvest Festival All	Thank you for the Farmers/OT Deuteronomy Reading Sing: Colours of Day ND	Love one another: The Parish Open Pantry Sing: He's got the whole world in his hands Worship Team/ND	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: You shall go out with joy ND
16.10.23	Global neighbours and our Harvest Charity: Farm Africa	Open the Book Team Joseph the Dreamer Sing: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God Parish OTB Team	Love one another: Farm Africa Charity and its impact on the lives of those in Kenya Sing: Together Class 4/AR	Harvest Thanksgiving - linked to the local community/Open Pantry and Farm Africa Sing: You shall go out with joy School Council/AR	Class 1 Parental Assembly 9.30am Class 1/PR	Celebration Special Mentions Sing: You shall go out with joy ND
23.10.23 (Harvest Festival 27.10.23)	Global neighbours and our Harvest Charity: Farm Africa	Open the Book Team Joseph the Ruler Sing: Autumn Days Parish OTB Team	Harvest and saying thank you. The Miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 Sing: We're going to thank you for the sunshine Class 3/VW	Harvest Festival Service Practice in Church Sing: Harvest Music All	Reception Worship with Rev Mary; Whole School: Thanksgiving reflections ND/Choir (Everybody Praise Him)	Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church 2pm Whole school community, parish and parents and carers.