



*Belonging, Believing; Together Succeeding*

## Policy: Collective Worship

Date Reviewed by Staff:	09/10/18
Date Reviewed by Education Committee:	28/11/18
Date Ratified by Full Governing Body:	5/12/18
Next Review Date: (3 years unless otherwise advised)	September 2021

## **Barrington Church of England School Collective Worship Policy**

Our vision as a Church of England primary school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a lifelong love of learning, respect for themselves, others and the environment so that they will have the skills, resilience and adaptability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Bible verse that sets our vision in context comes from the words of Jesus: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10. It is this flourishing in the love and grace of God that will enable our children to be wise, hopeful, and live well together with dignity and respect in God's world.

The **Christian values** underpinning our school practice and chosen by the whole school community are:

- Love
- Truth
- Friendship
- Trust
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Creativity

### **Introduction**

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 recognize 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.

### **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children how to worship.

### **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, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer, the candle lighting prayer and the school prayer.

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- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.
- The Lord be with you / *And also with you*
- This is the day that the Lord has made/*Let us rejoice and be glad in it*
- Peace be with you/ *and also with you*
- *Amen*
- Learn about Christians celebrating the Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

### Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils 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 or class.

Organisation of collective worship

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, ensuring that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs, giving time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Whatever the approaches to worship, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, unity in trinity
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who through his life, death and resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God; the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- the Holy Spirit as the power of God available to help us to become more like Jesus
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer

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- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the church's year

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditional values of the Christian faith and reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We will also include teaching about other faith festivals. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship will reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

### **Collective Worship Planning**

Collective worship is planned termly by a planning team of the head teacher, Rev Felicity and the head teacher from Petersfield Primary. Music that supports the focus of the collective worship planned is then added to the planning by the schools' music coordinator.

The planning has a focus for each half term which will be either a Christian value, the event in the church calendar or narratives from the bible.

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.