

Bromesberrow St Mary's C of E (VA)
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy
September 2016

Headteacher

Governor

Review Date September 2017

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at Bromesberrow St. Mary's Church of England School. It is our objective to educate pupils academically, socially, morally, culturally and spiritually within a school firmly based on Christian principles and to promote Christian Values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ; with the intent to encourage in pupils core values for lifelong learning: Respect, Motivation, Cooperation, Perseverance, Pride and Kindness.

The Gloucester Agreed Syllabus and SACRE aim for children to become 'Religiously educated' to face the demand of a contemporary world. They agree that a person who is religiously educated:

- Has a depth of understanding and insight into religion and belief, and their impact in the lives of believers and society, including the implications for their own lives;
- Is confident and thoughtful about, and able to express, their own beliefs;
- Acts in accordance with their beliefs;
- Is interested in, and respectful towards, the beliefs of others;
- Is interested in building up their understanding of different religions and beliefs;
- Is able to think for themselves and recognise where others may be trying to influence them;
- Continues to explore the questions of meaning that life throws up in light of the insights of faith.

Legal Status

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must reflect the traditions of the Church of England and be distinctly Christian.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship.

The School must comply with this wish and will ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Our Aims

Collective worship should:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Relate to the Christian calendar and seasons

- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church
- Provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- Involve clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Successful Collective Worship will:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community
- Enable learners to appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- Develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.

How will we achieve our aims?

- By creating a an atmosphere for Collective Worship, fostering a sense of occasion and reverence
- By carefully planning themes, which link in to the Christian calendar, seasons and other areas of import to develop and build upon concepts and ideas
- Through using different resources, artefacts and teaching aids (including speakers and visitors) to spark children's interest
- By encouraging children to value the different elements of worship, thinking in terms of prayer, silence, rituals and liturgy.
- By providing pupils opportunity to reflect and respond, relating to their own feelings and beliefs
- By having an environment rich in spirituality which again encourages questioning and reflection (e.g. display)
- By fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity-encouraging theological questioning

- By allowing children to take ownership of worship, through planning, leading and evaluating.

How is Collective Worship organised?

Our Central Aspects of Collective Worship are:

Congregate- meeting together, providing a time and space where we can become closer to God and he can become closer to us.

Connect-Children who are interested, stimulated and motivated.

Reflect and Respond -time for children to reflect and respond to themes and ideas, linking these to their own feelings and beliefs.

Relate- Children to be provided with opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding gained during Collective Worship to their learning and lives.

| Day | Person | Specifics |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Monday | Rev. Lara | Christian Values |
| Tuesday | Miss Sue Thornley | Bible Stories (relating to theme) and the Christian Calendar |
| Wednesday | Mrs Emma Aston | Roots and Fruits (Values Ed) |
| Thursday | Mrs Carpenter | Songs of worship |
| Friday | Mrs Laura Hankins | Celebration and Worship (relating to theme, Christian Calendar and current affairs) |

Collective worship is planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governor and representatives from the parish church.

The RE lead and Headteacher plan for worship, in consultation with the clergy, staff, children and parents.

The use of Prayer and Liturgy

Prayers are led by members of the clergy, staff, governors and children. Children plan for a Prayer each day corresponding to our weekly theme. These Prayers are captured in our Collective Worship folder. During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. At the beginning and the end of each Collective Worship a liturgical and symbolic ritual will occur:

To commence:

Three Candles are lit to represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit at the beginning of worship, with key liturgy:

Leader-As we join together and light the candles we think of God the Father creator of our world, God the Son who was sent to save us and God the Holy Spirit who lives in us always. The Lord is here.

Congregation- **His Spirit is with us.**

To conclude:

God be with you. **And also with you.** *Candle is extinguished.*

The Lord's Prayer is said at the end of each Collective Worship

It is our intention that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship. Children lead and say prayers before lunch and at the end of the day. Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, with bibles available. There is a central area of reflection for children and adults to pray and contemplate. We also have a spiritual garden outside to encourage this sense of reflection and thought in our beautiful outdoor surroundings.

Christianity in our Environment

Our environment is rich in resources, display and artefacts to stimulate and engage children, adults, parents and visitors. The school's reception area clearly displays our values and Christian ethos. We have beautifully crafted altar in the school hall (forming our focus for Collective Worship) and cementing our school hall as a place of worship. There is a Collective Worship table joined to this, which our key governor regularly updates to reflect the Christian calendar. This area is particularly special, with children and adults eagerly anticipating when it will be changed and what will be there to reflect upon. In the classrooms, there is a reflective area regularly updated in line with the Anglican Church's year. Each area has a big book of learning for the children to refer back to, particularly focusing on questioning and curiosity.

Communicating with our Community

- Every month we write a piece in the local parish newsletter
- We actively promote and support church events outside of the school day
- Christian Values are promoted in our newsletter
- Our Reverend attends key events in school to be available to talk to parents, children and visitors
- Staff, clergy, children and parents have an active involvement in contributing ideas to help shape our core values and Christian character.
- Families, governors and volunteers at the school attend church services and Celebration Assemblies.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on an annual basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a regular basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of collective contribute to our ongoing monitoring and evaluation worships in order to improve their practice and impact with the children.