

BOLTON-LE-SANDS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY



**“With God at the centre,
we reach out to support each other in learning, growth and community”**

March 2019

Our collective worship:

At Bolton-le-Sands Church of England Primary School collective worship is a fundamental part of our life in school. Christian values are at the heart of our school life through our Mission Statement, our school House system, through our community life and our worship together. Each half-term a particular Christian value is explored in worship and in our wider school life.

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard.

The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer in the curriculum generally and at the end of afternoon sessions as well as graces before lunch.

Key Beliefs

Forms of worship within our denomination(s) differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

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

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- 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 central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year

Christian Worship

There are many definitions of Christian worship. In this school we subscribe to the following view of Christian worship:

“That activity which sets the individual in the context of the spiritual, the divine God, and gives expression to the living relationship that exists between God and the one who worships”¹

“An expression of a relationship with God and a desire to serve and love God and others”²

“Gatherings of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God through Christ ... the purpose of all worship is the same: to offer praise to God for his grace and glory”³

¹ *Northamptonshire LEA Worship Guidelines*

² *The Edge of Wonder* Christopher Herbert, CIO ³ *A New Dictionary of Christian Theology* Edited by Alan Richardson and John Bowden SCM Press

For Christians, both individually and corporately, worship is a central feature of their life; it is an acknowledgement of God's glory and presence and a response to God as creator and redeemer. As such it is not primarily concerned with the intellect but with our feelings and deepest aspirations, joys and sorrows.

In our inclusive village Church of England School, we welcome all children and their families irrespective of faith background. We see it as our responsibility to provide opportunities for the children to explore, encounter and experience Christian beliefs, worship and understanding.

Collective Worship and Assembly

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan/District policy.

Statements of Broad Aims

1. Our Mission Statement underpins the centrality of worship.
2. To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship.
3. To develop knowledge, understanding and experience of the Christian faith.
4. To develop links with the local Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England and especially by celebration of the Eucharist in the school each half-term.
5. To worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
6. To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils through our Christian Ethos and Values.

Organisation and Delivery

Each day the school community meets for collective worship in different forms. The agreed pattern of worship is:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the headteacher, deputy headteacher or a member of the Leadership Team
Tuesday	Key stage worship led by teaching staff alternating with House worship conducted by children across a key stage, with the support of school staff.
Wednesday	Whole school 'Prayer and Praise' led by teachers and children who offer extempore prayers.
Thursday	Whole school worship led by the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, BLS incorporating half-termly community Eucharist services.
Friday	Whole-school Celebration Worship led by the headteacher.

Worship is an essential part of school life and due consideration is given to this within the school timetable. In our school, worship and learning are seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

There is an open invitation for governors to attend worship.

Our church and diocesan links are very important to us. We work closely with the local church, Holy Trinity Bolton-le-Sands. We worship regularly at church, particularly at important times during the Christian calendar when school leads worship. Church members support and encourage and enrich our worship e.g. during spirituality days, 'Thy Kingdom Come', school Eucharists etc.

Whenever possible children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc. because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school. If, for example, the peripatetic music teachers cannot teach at any other time, then pupils are withdrawn for the minimum amount of time.

On occasions, visitors are invited in by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Worship Co-ordinator to lead worship. All staff will share in these acts of worship.

Contents and Approaches

Our collective worship is based on a 4 year planned programme. It includes:

- A 4-year cycle of half-termly Christian Value focuses (See Appendix 1)
- Bible themes
- The Christian Year, events and meanings
- Saints' Days
- Christian role models of contemporary, historical or global significance
- The world-wide Christian church and social action
- Themes and content from 'Values for Life', 'A Teacher's Dozen' and 'Roots and Fruits'

A range of approaches are used to explore encounter and experience worship. Children are actively encouraged to participate in planning and leading worship. There are 6 worship groups across key stages, each with a staff enabler. These groups seek to enhance and enrich worship in school by their input and ideas. The worship groups are:

- Art group – a focus on display across school, PowerPoint slides and worship spaces in classrooms
- Music group – choosing and performing music linked to themes
- Media group – selecting and developing movies ('Movie Mondays') for worship
- Drama group – using drama to enhance worship
- Prayer group – to identify and lead a broad range of prayer opportunities
- Bible group – developing scriptural references

Children also lead prayers and the call to worship as a Class on a weekly rota. Upper KS2 plan and conduct House Worship. House Captains have responsibility for leading Harvest and Christmas services, plus occasional 'special' services (e.g. commemoration of the centenary of the end of WW1).

Resources

1. The purchasing policy for resources for worship is 'as required' and dependent upon finance availability.
2. Books, artefacts and posters are kept in the Resources room.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is responsible for the policy, half-termly planning, resourcing, attendance at courses and staff training when necessary. The worship is evaluated by children in each class in turn each week. Their opinions are recoded in an Evaluation Book. In addition, the co-ordinator seeks the views of staff, governors, visitors, parents, church members and varied groups of children orally. Their views are recorded and used to evaluate provision and implement change.

The Legal Requirements for Collective Worship in our School

In accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (section 69(4) and schedule 20, section 5), the Collective Worship provided in our school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State. Bolton-le-Sands is a Church of England Primary School and therefore the collective worship is required to reflect this.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

Although Collective Worship and RE naturally compliment and enrich one another they are managed separately and Collective Worship does not form part of the time allocated for Religious Education.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship and this provision and its limitations are summarised as follows:

“The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school”.

There will be occasions when the school assembles together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such ‘assembly’ times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents’ rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

Responsibility for the Policy

The Headteacher and the Collective Worship Co-ordinator are responsible for the review and implementation of the policy, which will be done in consultation with the Vicar and/or Diocese.

Judith Pye, Worship Co-ordinator
Tim Cross, Headteacher
March 2019

Appendix 1

Christian Values four-year plan

Year 1

Autumn 1 Thankfulness

Autumn 2 Peace

Spring 1 Responsibility

Spring 2 Generosity

Summer 1 Truthfulness

Summer 2 Integrity

Year 2

Autumn 1 Gratitude and Praise

Autumn 2 Service

Spring 1 Prayer- Thankfulness Forgiveness Compassion

Spring including a prayer walk or prayer day

Summer 1 Justice

Summer 2 Friendship

Year 3

Autumn 1 Reverence and Respect

Autumn 2 Courage

Spring 1 Forgiveness

Spring 2 Hope

Summer 1 Choices, chances and change. God's Spirit in action.

Faith Hope and Love

Summer 2 Wisdom

Year 4

Autumn 1 Creativity

Autumn 2 Trust

Spring 1 Humility

Spring 2 Compassion

Summer 1 Fruits of the Spirit

Summer 2 Perseverance