

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Non Sibi Sed Aliis

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119, vs 105

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all
gods. 1 Chronicles 16:24-25

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school. No amendments can be made without their express instructions and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review Date: Summer Term 2025

Next Review Date: Summer Term 2027

Reviewed By: LA Blakeley (Chaplain)

APPROVED BY THE HEADTEACHER – Summer Term 2025



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Excellent School

Collective Worship at Balshaw's Church of England High School

Philosophy

Balshaw's Church of England School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. We recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our student's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and a time to worship together as a school community to worship. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it enables each staff member and student to feel part of the worshipping life of the school. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world wide Church.

Aims

It is our aim at Balshaw's that worship should:-

- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God;
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism;
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet;
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection;
- Help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future;
- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child;
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- Promote community cohesion;
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- Support the social and emotional aspects of students learning (SEAL);
- Enable students to participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship.

Rationale:

Worship at Balshaw's takes varied forms. The school meets in Year Groups (Years 7 and 8, Year 9, and Years 10 and 11) for a broadly based Christian assembly once a week. Unfortunately there is no area of the school that is big enough to encompass the whole school. Our Chaplain leads the majority of our Acts of Worship to create and sustain a regular rhythm throughout the school year. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself. The Chaplain regularly invites local clergy and guests in to lead us in worship.

On two of the other four days, the school meets for worship on a house basis and when two houses have assemblies, the other two have tutor times. A home produced booklet is available for this. The Curriculum Leader of RE has produced many resources for use in tutor worship; we also have the 'Swatch and Pray' resource, 'Bible Text' produced by staff and many other resources. Tutors are encouraged to be creative and use their own appropriate resources alongside these.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Other Aspects of Worship

- There is a welcome service for the new Year 7s and parents and friends on their first day of school at Balshaw's and a celebration at the end of their first half term.
- All Full Governors meetings and subcommittee meetings in the school begin with a prayer.
- Staff briefings always end with a prayer.
- There are regular voluntary communion services held after school, e.g. beginning and end of term and to mark significant dates in the Christian Year e.g. Ascension Day and Easter.
- Active links with St Andrew's Parish Church and St Ambrose Church have enabled us to hold services in these churches. Balshaw's always seeks opportunities to work directly with our Church Partners, e.g. specific lessons at Christmas and Easter.
- We hold an annual whole school Carol Service over two days at St. Andrews to which Governors and parents are invited to attend.
- Year 7 students attend St. Andrew's at Easter to enjoy other students presenting the gospel through the musical 'Resurrection Rock.'
- There is a Christian lunchtime group for students that meets once a week on Friday lunchtimes.
- Each tutor group takes an active part in the Worship of the school by taking at least one Assembly per year.
- The school has a memorial garden and there is an annual Advent Memorial Service.
- All KS3 students experienced the service of Eucharist in 2025 and the school wants to build upon this with further sacramental acts of worship.

GOALS:

1. To increase the involvement of students within weekly acts of worship.
2. To encourage more staff to become involved in our Prayer Meetings and regular Acts of Communion.
3. To have a further acts of worship that celebrate Eucharist.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is in keeping with the Trust Deeds of the Foundation of the school. Although there is no direct copy of these, all statements since 1900 imply a Church of England Foundation. (Correspondence 1948 - 1951 of importance is now in the Lancashire Records Office).

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all students in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to deliver high quality acts of Collective Worship to fulfil this requirement.

The responsibility for arranging school worship at Balshaw's rests with the Governors, the Head teacher and the Governors Student Welfare & Ethos committee, who work alongside the School Chaplain to co-ordinate worship.

In keeping with the Trust Deeds of the Foundation of the School, we mean that in worship students will have the opportunity to explore:-

- 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 the 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.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Balshaw's we assume parents fully support attendance at and participation in religious worship. However we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school is indebted to the local clergy for their contribution to the religious life of the school.

Organisation

Day	Group	Person Leading
Monday	Year 11 Worship	Chaplain Luke Blakeley
Tuesday	Year 9 & 10 Worship	Chaplain Luke Blakeley
Thursday	Year 7 & 8 Worship	Chaplain Luke Blakeley

On those days when a tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is assumed that the form tutor will develop /discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group allowing:

- students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.
- students an opportunity to lead and reflect on the ideas heard that week.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation.

Worship at Balshaw's is rich and varied due to the large number of local clergy who support us by taking an act of collective worship and the scale of student involvement.

One of the schools foundation governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the School Chaplain and all electronic resources are on the school system where they can be accessed by staff. Tutors are encouraged to make use of their own appropriate resources and experiences to enrich the quality of their worship.

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