



Barlaston C.E. (VC) First School

“Let Your Light Shine” Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision Statement

Let your light shine through family, friendship and faith.

Our Spirituality Vision

Spirituality is an ever changing journey through life, connecting each individual with something bigger than themselves.

Equality Statement

The school is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Dyslexia Statement

To ensure that children on the dyslexic spectrum have equal opportunities and that their diverse strengths are celebrated and built on.

Safeguarding Statement

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Introduction

At Barlaston First School we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual, who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values, self-esteem and Christ-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). Parents wishing to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partly or wholly have the right to do so. Any parent wishing to do so should contact the head teacher. Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the ethos of the Church. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

COVID Restrictions

Due to the current restrictions in place surrounding COVID, we are unable to meet in the hall as a whole school, or allow visiting clergy or church support into school.

Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for collective worship supports this by:

- Recognising that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

- Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:
 - worship God
 - reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
 - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared

values

- consider spiritual and moral issues
 - respond to the worship offered
 - respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
 - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
 - begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
 - Ensuring the daily act of collective worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar
- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will;
 - be inspiring and transformational
 - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
 - develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and focus on our school Christian values
 - include a range of creative opportunities e.g music, silence, symbol, drama
 - heavily involves pupils through members of the Worship group opening and closing worship and through pupils writing their own prayer
 - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
 - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
 - will take place in the school hall, outdoors, in class rooms or the church
 - Respecting the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship

Content of Daily Worship

As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a termly, 2 year cycle to cover three main Christian values and Christian values related to that.
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching
- Use the school prayer, Lord's prayer and other prayers written by pupils and led by the worship group
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.
- Be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils

Delivery, Special Services and Visitors

Due to COVID restrictions, worships will either be class based or lead by staff/clergy via zoom. Zoom worship enable the school to meet as a whole, be it virtually, but will still enable us to deliver our worships as effectively as possible.

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St John the Baptist Church. We held our Harvest service via zoom and anticipate doing the same for Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter.

Management of Collective Worship

The worship lead, Mrs Tracey Price, is responsible for managing the worship rota and provides this termly. The worship programme shows continuity of Christian teaching, experience, breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community. The worship rotas can be found on the school website. Worships are monitored and evaluated by foundation and non-foundation governors. Mrs Price is also responsible for organising resources and ensuring they are accessible to staff and visitors who are leading worship. Mrs Price also keeps in touch with developments in this area and advises staff and governors when needed.

Current Practice Due to COVID Restrictions

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

Monday	Mrs Clarey (Head) via zoom
Tuesday	Class worship
Wednesday	Mrs Price via zoom
Thursday	Class worship
Friday	Celebration worship (Mrs Clarey/ other member of staff) via zoom

Reception children (Hedgehogs) have daily class workshops for the first few weeks in the autumn term, they attend the whole school worship, via zoom, when they are ready and settled, this varies with each cohort.

Please note, no singing currently takes place in our workshops

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used including the school prayer, The Lords Prayer and prayers written by the children. Reflection time may occur at any point during the worship.

The format may vary according to whom is leading and the worship theme. Below are a range of approaches that may be used:

- Many opportunities for prayer, reflection, quiet times and personal thoughts
- Use of music, flowers, candles, symbols and artefacts
- Children contributing/ leading worship through drama, dance, poetry, story, playing instruments etc.
- The worship will affirm the school's values and leave children with something to think about, and take into the life of the school

Assessment

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school
Policy reviewed Sept 2020.