

Barlaston C.E. (VC) First School

Collective Worship Policy

***Pupils reflect on the stories of the bible
which link to our school values.***

Family Friendship Faith

Collective Worship at Barlaston CE (VC) First School plays an important part of the life of the school.

It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school.

This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1998 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from leading and taking part in worship. 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.

[Reference: DFE circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. (January 1994)]

Worship will be

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timing, with a variety of leaders.
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

Christian Values

We identify the values of Family, Friendship and Faith.

These values are regularly referred to in our worships. Alongside our vision of "Let your Light Shine.. (Matthew 5:16)

Aims of Collective Worship

- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- To create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- To foster a reverential attitude to God.
- To foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity
- To affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- To enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- To foster and value a search for a faith to live by.
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experiences
- To worship together as a school

Management of Collective Worship

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to ensure the ethos of the church, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, Staff and school community. The worship policy created, articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents are also kept informed through the School newsletter.

The Worship Lead, currently Mr Gordon, has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with.

Since the recent appointment of our new vicar after a long period of vacancy we have established a Worship Committee comprising of our vicar, Rev Helen Duckett, chair of governors Alison Dando, both of whom are foundation governors, Mr. Gordon and our RE Lead Mrs. Hewitt. This committee now manages the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Worship is planned in line with our values of Family Friendship and Faith and our vision of letting our light shine. These themes ensure that our collective worship is challenging, has variety and is broadly Christian. Worship has a clear and consistent structure within the daily service, but also across each week, using the Windows, Mirrors, Door's approach. Worship is planned half a term in advance and are centered around bible stories and courageous advocacy and letting our light shine as agents of positive change.

Our newly established Collective Worship Committee will be expanded as the year develops to include children, parents and other stakeholders, and for all these members to have involvement in monitoring and feedback of our Worship.

Current Practice

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

Monday	Bible Story, Led by Mr Gordon, another staff member and the children, in turn
Tuesday	Songs of Praise led by all staff in turn.
Wednesday	Church Worship Led by Rev Helen Duckett or Alison Dando (CoG) alternately.
Thursday	Class or Key Stage Worship and Reflection
Friday	Celebration Worship with all parents/carers invited, led by Mr Gordon.

Church services - At special times throughout the year the pupils and parents are invited to join our school and church family at St John's. We hold a service in church for:-

- Harvest
- Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Village Green
- Christingle
- Easter
- Summer leavers

Worship format

The children enter the hall accompanied by music. The worship is opened by the leader lighting the candle and the leader or a pupil inviting the initial response.

"Jesus is the light of the world"

"Jesus is the light of the world"

"Jesus, the light of the world is here"

"Lord Jesus, Shine upon us"

The children are regularly involved in the worship and are now also involved in the planning and delivery of some worship sessions to the school. A hymn is sung and a child often reads a prayer. Children complete the worship by saying our closing prayer.

"Go out into the world and let your light shine, through family friendship and faith, in the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit.

Amen"

The candle is then extinguished by a pupil, supervised by the leader. Children then lead out as music plays.

Prayer and reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others.

On any occasion the teacher responsible for worship may choose one or more approaches:

- Staff leading Collective Worship are encouraged to include opportunities for prayer, reflection and quiet, personal thought
- The leader is encouraged to use music, symbols, and / or artefacts to add to the atmosphere
- Children's contributions, both in preparation in the classroom and in actual presentations is especially welcome - this can take the form of, for example, drama, poetry, story, reading aloud, or singing.
- Leaders of Worship should not only consider the means and mood of Worship but also the close of the activity. The occasion will have affirmed the school's values and given children something to think about and take into the life of the school.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues.

All pupils regardless of academic ability, age, gender, and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of RE. At each stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children in the class.

Policy Date: September 2026

Review Date: September 2028