

Bishop Rawstorne Staff Handbook on Worship



Verse: "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

James 3:17

***Vision:** Bishop Rawstorne is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God, enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.*



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Introduction

It is the duty of the Governing Body to secure that all pupils at Bishop Rawstone, a Church of England Academy, take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. This is required by the Education Reform Act 1988, section 6, Department of Education circular 1/94, the Trust Deed of our school, the demands of Diocesan policy and the traditions of our Academy.

As an CofE academy cultivating a culture of 'life in all its fullness' through the teachings of Jesus and the values/virtues of Christianity is at the heart of all we do. Collective Worship plays a major part of the school day and promotes the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school.

James 3:17 says *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."* This quote underpins the work of our school's ethos and vision ... Bishop Rawstone is a Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God, enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully.

Consequently, it is at the heart of our School life and Governors see it as an essential part of all the pupils' education. As such, we are concerned to resource it properly and to ensure that it is of the highest standard.

This handbook is intended as an aide memoire for existing members of staff and a 'how to/frequently asked questions' guide for new members of staff and cover teachers. It is updated annually. This handbook should be read in conjunction with the School's Collective Worship Policy. All permanent members of staff should be familiar with the contents of the School's Collective Worship Policy.

Mr P Ascroft

1. Is it 'Worship' or 'Assembly'?

The school recognises that there is a difference between acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students:

- We understand "assembly" to be gathering together to share a common purpose, for example to give out notices, celebrate achievement and address school business.
- We understand "worship" to be a time to acknowledge, reflect on and respond to God.

We gather in school for both purposes. Often an assembly (where notices are given) may precede an act of collective worship (where God is addressed). When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. words of Christian greeting (in our case "The Lord be with you" and the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moments of silence and reflection etc. The reason for this is that by law students must attend assemblies, but parents have the right to withdraw students from Collective Worship. (Please see appendices 1 and 2).

2. What are the aims of Collective Worship?

Within the context of a Church School, Collective Worship should support both the students and adults taking part in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experience.

Therefore the aims of collective worship at Bishop Rawstorne are to enable all pupils and staff to:

- 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 which might include, praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, quiet reflection
- To help students 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, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) 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 pupils' learning (SEAL)

3. How will Collective Worship be delivered?

To help to achieve the aims outlined above, Collective Worship at Bishop Rawstorne organised into either College, Year Group or form tutor groupings.

Whole School and Year Group Collective Worship normally take place in the Main Hall and are led by P Ascroft SLT, the school Chaplains, and Heads of Year, Individual Students and Form Groups. (Please see appendix 3 for detailed information on the timing of these arrangements for this year.) We also invite guests in to school to lead Collective Worship on occasions; and governors and visitors are welcome to join us. On special occasions Collective Worship can also take place in other large spaces within the School's building and grounds.

Form groupings normally meet for worship in their form rooms; other places within the School's building and its grounds can also be utilised.

Worship takes place at a common time in our School (Wednesday 2pm-2:15pm). This is so as to encourage the creation of a worshipful atmosphere and to lead to meaningful worship for all members of the School community. Staff are encouraged to ensure there is little if any movement in the school building whilst worship takes place and 'Worship in Progress' signs are placed on the door to their form rooms barring entry to other students.

4. Who are the Student Leadership Team and what part do they play in Worship?

The student leadership team meets regularly with Mr Tye. These meetings are an opportunity for student voice and input into all areas of our school. As a Christian School our student leaders will be asked to monitor, review and evaluate worship, feeding back into the preparation, resourcing and delivery of future acts of worship.

Student Leaders can support form tutors in the organisation, delivery, and recording of worship. Jobs may include:

- Putting up and taking down the 'Worship in Progress' sign.
- Changing the theme of the week notice on the Christianity Board.
- Keeping the Christianity Board tidy and up to date.
- Regularly attending student voice meetings and services and taking information from the form to the student voice meetings and from the meetings back to form.
- Reminding the teacher to ensure that one of their acts of form worship is recorded on the Worship Microsoft Form.

5. What are Christianity Boards?

Every form room has a noticeboard set aside for, and clearly marked as, a 'Christianity Board'.

Teachers and students are encouraged to decorate the board at the start of the academic year and often choose to represent their hopes and prayers for the year ahead on Christian symbols or other appropriate shapes, which are attached to the board.

The Christianity Board should also have displayed on it: the school prayer, the Lord's Prayer in traditional and contemporary forms, the grace, the theme of the week, the school's mission statement, the school house names and their respective background. These are all provided by the Worship Co-ordinator if needed but are also good activities for students to make/create and personalise.

The Christianity Board should be attractively displayed and updated once a term to reflect student input.

6. How will the content of Collective Worship reflect our Ethos?

The School **trust deed** and **circular 1/94** outline the expectations for worship in our school that it should be 'broadly Christian'. Therefore pupils will be introduced to and helped to explore the following key beliefs and aspects of the School's Christian faith, as appropriate to their age and abilities:

- The nature of God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Jesus as the Son of God, through His life, death and resurrection.
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of His creation and destined for eternal life.