

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy



**THE**  
**DIocese**  
**OF**  
**BLACKBURN**  
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

## Worship Policy

*I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.*

*John 10:10*

**Aspire Believe Achieve**

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

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**Reviewed by:** Mr Rawlinson

**Approved by the Full Governing Body—26 March 2019**

## **Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy Worship Policy**

Jesus said, **“I have come that you might have life.life in all its fullness.”**

*John 10:10*

### **Philosophy**

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy is a Church of England school within the Blackburn Diocese. As a Christian community we want our students to know that Christianity a positive foundation of values for life for them and the wider community.

We deeply affirm Christ’s words in the gospel of John that “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.” We want our pupils to experience life in all its fullness.

Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate and embed our Christian values and share His Word. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Bishop Rawstorne we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Collective Worship is integral to our Christian identity and sense of belonging to the world-wide Church. Regardless of background or belief we want to provide our pupils space to think and reflect and learn. The character development of all of our pupils is a core component of collective worship.

"Character is the root, the support system for your entire life. Achievement is simply the visible fruit."

At Bishop Rawstorne our aim for collective worship is that it is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring.

### **The 5 Expressions of our worship offering at Bishop Rawstorne:**

1. Open and invitational worship that is neither confessional nor compulsion led. Offering students and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
2. Affirmation of varied Christian worship along with opportunity to experience Christian worship.

3. Investigation of with all stakeholders of the relevance of faith in today's world. Offering encounters with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible to aid the development of our community to understand core Christian beliefs such as the Trinitarian nature of God.
4. An open platform for students and adults to engage in planning and leading collective worship leading to improved practice.
5. Partnering with our local church community to support the school in developing its worship provision.

## **Aims**

It is our aim at Bishop Rawstone 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 themes such as praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to 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 and 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, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community

## **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in church. We also hold school Eucharist's on a regular basis, supported by our Chaplaincy team.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils 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.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole-school act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Governors who after consultation with the Head Teacher has appointed a Curriculum Area Leader of Religious Education and Worship with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of Collective Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that 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 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.

Acts of Collective Worship at Bishop Rawstone take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and reflect and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

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 and 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 OHP, moment of silences and reflection. The start of worship formally begins with the words "The Lord be with you.....And also with you."

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Bishop Rawstone we seek to be an inclusive community, however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher/Curriculum

Area Leader of Religious Education and Worship followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

### **Organisation of Collective Year Group Worship**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Person Leading</u>	<u>Main Hall</u>
Monday	Head of Year 9 *	Year 9
Tuesday	Head of Year 10 *	Year 10
Wednesday	Head of Year 11 *	Year 11
Thursday	Head of Year 8*	Year 8
Friday	Head of Year 7*	Year 7

\* Acts of Collective Worship in the hall are normally led by the Head of Year, or a member of the Chaplaincy Team, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, but may also be led by tutors or students.

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:

- The Group Tutor to develop /discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group enabling students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.
- Students to develop /discuss the theme for the week with an opportunity to lead and reflect on the ideas heard that week.

### **WEDNESDAY IS OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP DAY**

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.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and a reminder is included in the weekly notices sheet and the daily bulletin. It is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to this theme and that Group Tutors will re-enforce this in reflections in tutor time. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. It is important that at Bishop Rawstorne we present a relevant and living faith.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan their act of worship on a simple proforma. These include a space for evaluation. These planning sheets should be forwarded to Sue Burt on completion.

A Worship Committee meets once a term led by the Curriculum Area Leader of Religious Education and Worship. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. This meeting includes the Chaplaincy Team and the line-manager for Religious Education and Worship, Peter Rawlinson, Deputy Headteacher.

The school seeks to involve students in the evaluation of collective worship. Members of the School Council regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these to the schools council and/or the Worship Committee.

Mrs Kathleen Cooper, one of the school's governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school and Mr Stephen Gregson oversees the curriculum area of Religious Education. The school provides each Tutor Group with resources to support encourage and inspire student led acts of Collective Worship.

## **Leaders**

The majority of the school community are involved in leading collective worship. On a rota, senior staff lead prayers in Monday briefing. Staff are also invited to plan and lead collective worship for the whole school. Tutorial Collective Worship Representatives in Years 7-11 are trained to lead and facilitate reflections and prayers at the beginning of the day on days when they are not attending Collective Worship in the main hall.

All tutorials are provided with interactive reflections on Bible passages and prayers each week to be used in morning tutorial and the school day ends with the 'Grace'. Tutors, with assistance from Phil Ascroft, are asked to support and encourage pupils to take part in designing and leading collective worship. Students and staff are supported in this by Phil Ascroft's Monday lunch worship workshop in a computer room where resources can be made and advice can be given.

To provide the school community with variety in their experience of worship different media are used. Contemporary film and music are often used to make connections with the world of pupils. Guests may be invited to lead worship and / or address pupils and adults. Collective Worship may also occasionally be held at different times during the school day and in different places round the school building and grounds.

The Quiet Room is used for various activities including staff prayer meetings, lunchtime services and monthly Eucharists led by local clergy.

All staff leading Collective Worship in the hall are encouraged to consult Phil Ascroft for assistance and there are guides for leading Collective Worship at Bishop Rawstorne. Training to support staff leading worship is provided on a regular basis. Furthermore Phil Ascroft has issued Worship Handbook for all staff to use for guidance and ideas. This is updated annually.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Evaluation and improvement of worship for all staff and students central to our practice as a school. Phil Ascroft co-ordinates the varied evaluation of collective worship. It is both formal and informal, engaging staff, students, parents and governors. The outcomes of evaluation are shared with the Senior Leadership Team, governors, staff, parents and students.

Worship Leaders from each tutor group are central to the preparation, delivery and evaluation of collective worship by students. In addition surveys of staff, parents and governors enhance the evaluation process. Each tutor group has a Worship Evaluation booklet in which they note the themes of the weekly worship and assess its impact and quality. Healthy and honest staff forum for voicing concerns and improvements is encouraged and acted upon.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the Curriculum Area Leader of Religious Education and Worship in the Teachers' Drive under Worship. The school has a budget of £1,000 to develop these resources. Extra Support for Collective Worship from the Diocese can be found on the website [bducation.org](http://bducation.org). Further we use <http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk> Presently the Curriculum leader for RE and Worship is using Neville Norcross 'Christian Values for Church Schools' as a recourse for making our Christian values count.

SIAMS Evaluation Schedule:

### **Strand 6: The impact of collective worship**

Strand 1: Vision and Leadership

Strand 2: Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Strand 3: Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy

Strand 4: Community and Living Well Together

Strand 5: Dignity and Respect

## **Strand 6: The impact of collective worship**

Strand 7: The effectiveness of Religious Education

In a Church school collective worship should be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

In this strand the following must be explored:

The ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.

In developing collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspiring the school community needs to evaluate the extent to which worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

## **Strand 6: Grade Descriptors**

### **In a Good Church school which enables pupils and adults to flourish...**

Worship is invitational offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. All those who wish to be so are actively engaged in worship. Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture of the school. It is not compulsory or forced. All those who wish to do so will have regular opportunities to pray and reflect. Pupils talk about the value of prayer and reflection both in formal and informal contexts and how being still and reflective in their own lives can be helpful. As appropriate to context, pupils speak of their personal use of prayer and reflection. Pupils recognise that worship provides meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development.

Statutory obligations are met in context.

Worship is creative and pupils talk about how it often inspires them to action. It has variety, for example, involving music and liturgy, silence, story and reflection and, where appropriate, the Eucharist. Most staff and pupils talk about how worship causes them to reflect on their

behaviour, values and attitudes. Worship ensures pupils develop an appreciation of the variety of elements and styles found in the diversity of liturgical and other traditions of the worldwide Anglican/Methodist Church and its diversity of expression within the UK. Worship provokes thoughtful and respectful responses from pupils.

They are aware of the central importance of the Eucharist/Communion to Christian worship.

Planning for collective worship ensures that pupils have opportunities to encounter the teachings of Jesus and explore the relevance of his teaching in today's world. Pupils talk about the meaning of the different elements of Christian worship including belief in the Trinitarian nature of God. An effective shared approach to planning allows appropriate opportunities for pupils to gather, engage and respond. The planning, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship involves a range of members of the community. Pupils are actively involved in this process, often taking a consultative role. Most leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training. The local church community is regularly involved in collective worship, providing practical support and encouragement.

### **It is better than Good**

For example:

The school community recognises and values worship as the heartbeat of the school. Pupils and adults talk with enthusiasm about worship and explain how it influences their lives, both in and out of school.

School leaders work proactively with the local church community or diocese who provide innovative and appropriate support for collective worship. Pupils take a considerable lead in the development of worship within the school. Staff are well supported to lead engaging tutor group and classroom worship.

Pupils articulate an informed and evaluative understanding of the value and use of prayer and reflection. There are varied and interactive prayer and reflection activities on offer to all pupils which they find helpful and supportive.

Pupils are enabled to engage with the Eucharist in creative and innovative ways, and this ensures a range of age and context appropriate opportunities for pupils to explore the Eucharist in ways that respect the integrity of the pupils.