



Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy

## Worship Policy

*'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*

**FORTITER ET FIDELITER**

*Bravely and Faithfully*

This 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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<b>Review date:</b>	<b>March 2023</b>
<b>Date of next review :</b>	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Mr Rawlinson</b>
<b>Approved by FGB</b>	<b>March 2023</b>

*This policy is to take effect from August 2023. It reflects the new SIAMS framework.*

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

### **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 Rawstone Church of England Academy aspires to cultivate wisdom rooted in Christian Values. It is our vision that all members of our community will experience life in all its fullness, flourishing through dignity, knowledge and understanding, bound together in unity, giving hope and worth to all.”

### **Mission**

Worship that is of value. Worship that is valued.

### **Philosophy**

Bishop Rawstone 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 students 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 Rawstone 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 students space to think and reflect and learn. The character development of all of our students 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 Rawstorne 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 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.

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 Head Teacher/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 collective worship assemblies.

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

<b>Day</b>	<b>Person Leading</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>
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/Christian Ethos Team 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.

The school provides each Tutor Group with resources to support encourage and inspire student led acts of Collective Worship.

## **Content**

### **- Year Group Worship**

This is our time of 'Collective Worship'. Whilst we often begin with pastoral business and give pastoral leads the opportunity to speak to year groups, the core emphasis is that of worship. Collective Worship begins with a candle being lit, our opening welcome "The Lord be with you" and then a Clergy Chaplain, a member of staff, a tutor group or a visitor delivers a time of thought, reflection, and prayer to engage students in exploring the theme for that week.

### **- Worship Services**

These take place several times during the year. They are times to celebrate Key School events and Christian Festivals. These are Christian in nature and content, and aim to meet each student where they are on their walk of faith. Celebrating together is a foundation feature of our school and brings us together as a community to worship God.

## **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Worship is regularly evaluated by students who give feedback each week on Wednesday Worship. We do this electronically through QR codes with questions for selected students to answer.

Moreover, we have staff voice on worship. We contact parents for their views and input. Our student council and senior team play an important role in student voice and evaluation with two members of the council nominated to represent worship as well as two members for the senior prefects.

## **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 Schedule and Bishop Rawstorne:

### **IQ3 How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?**

a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican/Methodist foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?

- b) How do partnerships with the DBE and/or MAST, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?
- c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?
- d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?