

Brindle St James' Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

January 2021

Review date: January 2024

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement

At Brindle St. James' Church of England Primary School, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

Brindle St James' Church of England Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils and other members of the school community develop their full academic, social and spiritual potential, and so achieve excellence within the context of our Christian family.

Our children are the heart of this Church of England Primary School.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school ethos, it is a celebration of the life, curriculum and concerns of the school. The staff and governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education and spiritual and moral development. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard providing experiences that are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils.

The provision of Collective Worship conforms to Diocesan policy and the legal requirements for RE and Collective Worship.

The school meets together for Collective Worship, but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' right to withdraw their children does not apply.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship God
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To enrich the spiritual and moral development of pupils
- To nurture the children in their own personal faith
- To experience and understand the central place of the Eucharist in the life of the Church
- To develop links with the local church and introduce pupils to the worship and heritage of the Church of England
- To celebrate, take note of and build up the life of the school in the presence of God
- To explore those questions which are important to everyone
- To encounter a faith which is alive
- To experience the joy of celebration God's love

Organisation

An Act of Worship will take place in school every day, including visits to Church and end of term services.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	9.00 am	Whole school worship led by the Head teacher
Tuesday	9.00 am	Whole school worship led by a member of Church or a teacher
Wednesday	pm	Class worship led by the class teacher
Thursday	9.00 am	Whole school worship led by a teacher
Friday	10.30 am	Whole school worship/celebration led by the Head teacher

Worship will be prayerful, reflective and creative. It will link with the life of the Church. We aim to create an atmosphere of worship through music, times of silence and prayer, the behaviour and attitude of staff and pupils and the content of stories and discussion.

A worship table with the church ecumenical colours displayed, crosses and candles is the focal point for all whole school worship.

There will be special acts of worship in school marking events in the Church year these will include: Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost.

At times throughout the year worship will be led by visitors to the school for example, a member of a charity organisation, a school governor or different members of clergy.

Parents, family and governors will be invited to all special acts of worship and end of term services. However, worship time in school is open to all those who wish to join us.

Prayers will be said in each class every day led by the teacher or children. This will take place at a time most appropriate to the organisation of the day and therefore may vary throughout the school.

Planning, Content and Detail

The Worship Co-ordinator is responsible for drawing up a programme of Worship to be followed by the school staff. Although suggested resources and ideas are included in the plan, themes are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

The children are sometimes involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of daily worship through the WABs group (Worship at Brindle), which consists of Y2 and KS2 pupils and meets each week.

The Act of Worship will be relevant to the children and will be God and child centred. Daily worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music chosen by the WABs. The children are seated so the younger children are sat next to an older child, as part of our Christian family ethos. Candles are lit and the theme is introduced. This is followed by a story or talk, then a time of reflection. Worship will conclude with a prayer and a song or hymn. The children are all expected to take full part in the act of worship, listening attentively, answering questions, reflecting on what has been said, singing hymns and songs and praying. Children will be asked to volunteer and come out to the front to help lead the act of worship. On other occasions children will be involved in planning and leading the worship themselves. The candles are then blown out before any messages given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Class worship takes place on **Wednesday** afternoons - these are held in the classroom and led by the class teacher. Each one begins with the children sitting on the carpet whilst a piece of reflective music is played and a candle lit. A passage from the bible is read with a short discussion and reflective time (based on Blackburn Diocese' Reading the bible programme). A final prayer is said by the teacher or the children.

On **Friday** whole school worship takes place following the weekly theme. A time of celebration of the children's achievements and a presentation of awards follows. Parents are invited to this service once a month, where the children also make a presentation of the work they have been covering that month.

Legal Right to Withdraw

In view of the religious foundation of the school, the governors anticipate that parents will wish to commit their children to attendance at the worship which takes place in the school. However, in accordance with Sections 9 (3) of the Education Reform Act, 1988, parents have a right to withdraw their children from school worship.

Complaints about the Provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures are to be followed and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Other faiths

Although worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. On occasion worship may portray and contain information about other faiths, but will not be 'other faith' worship.

Worship Co-ordinator

It is the responsibility of the Worship Co-ordinator to plan a programme of worship for each term, any whole school Eucharist or other special acts of worship, ensuring that the content and approaches outlined above are put into practice. Clergy, staff and

pupils will be involved in this planning where appropriate. The Co-ordinator will then issue a programme to all members of the teaching staff and leaders of school worship.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluating

The worship programmes and any orders of service from special acts of worship will be kept by the co-ordinator as a record of school worship. Pupils are encouraged to evaluate collective worship sessions. Years 2-6 make regular written evaluations in our Worship Evaluation Book. Adults are also encouraged to offer feedback. Younger children may voice their views in 'circle time' or respond in other creative ways. Reverend David Ward, our vicar, is our identified governor for Religious Education and Worship and has a role monitoring Collective Worship.

Resources

It is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator to make sure that these resources are well organised, up to date and looked after. Resources are kept in in the library. Extra support for Collective Worship from the Diocese can be found on the website on www.bdeducation.org.uk/schools.html