

Bury Church of England Primary School



Policy for Collective Worship

Policy Approved	Summer term 2024
Next Review Date	Summer term 2025

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision:

At Bury C of E Primary School,
*We love one another and are forgiving of each other,
just as in Christ God forgave us.*
We speak the truth in love and show proper respect to everyone.

This is an invitation to 'Be More Jesus'.

Our Values:

Love: Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Forgiveness: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32

Honesty: Speak the truth in love Ephesians 4:15

Respect: Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers (...) 1 Peter 2:17

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
 - to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
 - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - to encourage participation and response;
 - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
 - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- 1.2 These aims in turn relate back to our school's statement of purpose, and in particular the following statements:
- 1.3 At Bury School we strive for excellence within a secure and friendly Christian atmosphere, in which everyone is able to achieve their full potential: intellectually, physically and spiritually, socially and morally.
- 1.4 We encourage attitudes which foster and support personal learning and understanding - and the development of self-reliance, self-motivation, self-discipline and self-esteem.
- 1.5 The school is seen as a learning community and all endeavours by any of its members to develop their skills is both encouraged and celebrated.

2 Collective Worship (CW)

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We encourage everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 2.2 As a Church of England School we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- 3.2 We conduct CW in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that it is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct CW, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local Christian groups conduct them instead.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our CW from the traditions of the Christian faith and we usually reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We follow the CW rota from the Diocese of Ely. Sometimes the themes of our CW reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, and sometimes the CW shapes the curriculum. Whichever, CW is planned as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, and over a two/three year cycle cover all the major stories from the old and new testaments.
- 3.5 Our CW reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in them by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. CW offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Bury School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in CW.
- 3.6 We invite parents to CW every Friday as this includes our Celebration Assembly. The first part of this time is sometimes led by the children and is a chance to share our ethos with a wider audience. There are also other occasions when we welcome parents, particularly the Final Leavers' Assembly in July and the Annual Carol Service. These opportunities help us promote the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our CW at any time, and we ask GB visitors to report back on the experience at the next full Governing Body meeting. This then helps build the picture for School Self Evaluation purposes.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend CW. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

This Policy was approved by the Local Governing Body on: 11th May 2023

This policy will be reviewed annually.