



St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Our Christian Vision

Believe **A**chieve **R**espect **T**ogether **S**ucceed

B – We **believe** we will flourish in God's family.

A – We know that everyone in St Bart's can **achieve**.

R – We **respect** everyone in our family.

T – **Together** we support and help each other.

S – As part of God's family we support everybody to **succeed**.

Safeguarding

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils. We believe all staff and visitors have an important and unique role to play in the protection of children.

The Law

The current law is determined by the Education Reform Act 1988, with some requirements deriving from the Education Regulations 1981. In summary the law says this:

- All pupils must attend a daily act of Collective Worship, except for sixth formers who are allowed to decide for themselves whether to attend;
- The legal framework outlined here applies to maintained LA schools. In schools with a religious character Collective Worship is governed by the trust deed. Arrangements in free schools and academies is determined by the funding agreement.
- There is no need for an act of Collective Worship to include the whole school all at once. It may be through year groups, classes, key stages or in any combination.
- It may take place at any time during the school day and should normally be on school premises.
- It must be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Responsibility lies with the head and governors, though the precise duties may vary according to the type of school.
- Details of arrangements for Collective Worship, including the policy, must be documented and available to the public.

Withdrawal of pupils

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship either partly or wholly. However, we encourage parents to discuss their request which we will deal with sensitively. If the parent does not want to discuss it or still feels they wish to withdraw their child, the request should be made in writing to the head teacher. The school will provide an alternative activity and supervision for the child.

The value of Collective Worship

Our school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of our school and to the society and world in which we live. We aim for our programme of Collective Worship to enrich the life of school in many ways and try to be creative and imaginative in organising this provision using the Roots and Fruits resource. We believe that Collective Worship:

- Offers space for the **school community** to learn, grow and celebrate together;
- Provides an opportunity for **personal reflection** on individual life or wider big questions;
- Nurtures all aspects of **SMSC development**, especially spiritual development;
- Offers opportunities to develop understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, so contributing to the promotion of **fundamental values**;
- Enables us to meet and engage with the **local community** through participants in assemblies;
- Responds to **topical or local issues** in a flexible and sensitive way;
- Provides chances for pupils and staff to **develop their own abilities** in preparing, presenting or evaluating assemblies.

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives for spiritual development and wider SMSC awareness. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship is organised as follows:

- The school follows the liturgical calendar as set out by the church
- Focussing on a different Christian value each half-term, the school follows a two-year cycle using twelve of the sixteen Christian Values, namely: Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Generosity, Justice, Perseverance, Respect, Service, Thankfulness, Trust and Truthfulness
- All Collective Worship is conducted using the GEARS framework:
 1. Gathering – where we gather either as a whole school or in class groups
 2. Engaging – where we explore the focus for the half-term linked to
 3. Responding – where we take the time to pray, sing and reflect

4. Sending – where we leave to enact what we have considered
- Whole school Collective Worship is conducted: on Monday and Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon by the headteacher;
 - Class teachers conduct in-class Collective Worship on Tuesday and Thursday.

Principles and practice at St Bartholomew's

These are our key principles in planning Collective Worship:

- All children will be invited to take part in Collective Worship every day
- All children will also be given the opportunity to participate
- The Worship Council (made up of elected members of year 6 children) will help/lead whole school worship and will take an active role in planning and monitoring.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals; they will also relate to the children's interests – classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion
- There will be opportunity to recognise the distinctiveness of the many faiths and world views shared in our community
- The Collective Worship will include the singing of hymns and songs and children and adults are encouraged to join in but this is invitational and they may choose to just listen.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection
- We will meet sometimes as a phase/key stage and sometimes in smaller groups

Reflection and prayer

Collective Worship should include opportunity for reflection and prayer. Sensitivity should be used to ensure that prayer or other forms of spirituality are as inclusive as possible. Assumptions or assertions about specific doctrinal beliefs may make it difficult for members of some faith communities, or pupils without religious affiliation, to participate. It may be introduced with a phrase that recognises pupils will use the words in different ways. Some may reflect the words of the prayer in their own thoughts. Others, with no specific religious faith, will be able to reflect on the theme and the aspiration of the words without necessarily implying belief in a deity or conformity to a particular religious tradition.

Prayer is invitational and children and adults not wishing to join in are asked to sit quietly.

Visitors

Visitors can enrich Collective Worship and build partnership with the local community. We invite members of faith communities, other ethical traditions and community groups to share in the programme. We ensure full safeguarding procedures are in place. Regular visitors to school who have access to children should have DBS enhanced disclosure. We will ensure that extremist or intolerant views, of any political or religious kind, will not be allowed in assemblies or elsewhere and we will follow appropriate safeguarding policies as appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

All children have an entitlement to access to Collective Worship. All children will have access to appropriate resources within the school. These will reflect a multi-cultural society, without stereotyping or discrimination. We are mindful of the need to promote the inclusion of all protected characteristics and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy and guidance will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.

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