

Collective Worship Policy

Bisley Blue Coat and Oakridge Parochial School



Approved by:	Federated Governing Board	Date: 31 st March 2022
Last reviewed on:	March 2022	
Next review due by:	March 2025	

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school and provides a space and a place for telling the story of Jesus. In our school, we seek to provide a community that will sustain and guide pupils; school worship provides an opportunity for the mutual giving and receiving of worth within a zone of freedom where individuals can face choices.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God, the source of all being and life; belief in Jesus, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and belief in the Holy Spirit, who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Prayer and time to reflect are part of each school day and pupils are encouraged to pray in a variety of creative ways.

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- provide an experience of worship that will help children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God, allowing the expression of an encounter with God in verbal and non-verbal language.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation and enjoyment where children can be actively involved, take part in ritual and "special time" that encourages calm, stillness and peace.
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year so that children are offered a pattern of meanings and a symbolic framework which can begin to integrate experience.
- explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce children to some well-known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values agreed by all stakeholders in the school.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- encourage pupils to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- foster an appreciation, and awareness, of our responsibility for the created world.
- encourage respect of others religious beliefs and practices.
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder and feelings of pride, pity, compassion, through exploring the spirituality of life and experience.

Worship will not compromise the integrity and dignity of individuals but will provide a shared experience which is educational in nature; a time where individuals can reflect inwardly and where together the school community can explore ways of living which reflect the shared values and vision of the school.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

However, in our church school, worship has a central place and is regarded as a very important part of pupils' education. Where a parent requests a withdrawal, the head teacher will offer a meeting to explore their reasons. The governors have the responsibility for worship in a church school, in consultation with the Executive headteacher. There is an expectation that staff will be fully involved in worship in this school.

Organisation

The worship will follow the Roots and Fruits resource (Imaginer). Each value will be explored for a term at a time allowing time for other Christian Festivals to be celebrated. The Values will be planned on a two year rolling plan see below.

Year A		
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Term 1 Generosity Harvest	Term 3 Courage Term 4 Forgiveness Easter	Term 5 Friendship Ascension Term 6 Respect Leavers
Term 2 Compassion Christmas		
Year B		
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Term 1 Thankfulness Harvest	Term 3 Perseverance Term 4 Justice Easter	Term 5 service Ascension Term 6 truthfulness Leavers
Term 2 Trust Christmas		

This will be reviewed as necessary to respond to the needs of the school.

On Mondays to Thursdays worship will allow all pupils to meet collectively for a 20-minute act of worship.

On Mondays worship will alternately be led by the Open the Book team and the Parish Priest or nominated representative.

On alternate Thursdays worship is a pupil led worship or singing practice.

On Fridays worship will be class worship or sharing worship.

Twice a term the achievement worship takes place in church on a Friday. Parents, members of the community and governors are invited.

Worship is taken by all members of the teaching staff on a rota basis.