



## **Bournebrook C. of E. Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Introduction**

The staff and Governors of Bournebrook Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School recognise the importance Collective Worship plays in the daily lives of all our children. Collective Worship is an essential part of the education of all our children, not simply because it is a Statutory Requirement, but because it provides both an academic and social education in a Christian context. Staff and children enjoy these times together.

The policy reflects the consensus of opinion by all staff, having been drawn up as a result of staff and governor discussion, and has the support of the Governing Body and Spirituality Group.

#### **Statutory Requirements**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that “Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character” which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Our Acts of Worship also have regard for the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all our pupils and this means that some of our worship may contain material from another faith or faiths.

#### **The Aims of Collective Worship at Bournebrook C.E. Primary**

As a school with a Christian foundation, we aim to foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared values of the school, the community and the wider world.

The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils, whatever their background, is of prime concern to us as a school. Christian values are, however, built into our ethos and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

We acknowledge that beliefs that are broadly Christian are also inclusive to the issues addressed by other major world faiths e.g. peace, love, greed, poverty. By acknowledging this broad and flexible approach, Collective Worship should develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

We ensure that our Collective Worship is flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in our school.

#### **Nature of Collective Worship**

We aim to acknowledge and/or address the following principles when planning and leading our acts of Collective Worship at Bournebrook School.

- Collective Worship is collective and not corporate. It provides a forum to celebrate faith and material to promote spiritual development of our children.
- It is concerned with inward response and not particular religious rituals.
- It should provide time for reflection on children's own experiences, a time to recognise and celebrate the values and beliefs of the whole community, both in school and the wider world.
- We endeavour to encourage active participation rather than passive attendance.
- Care is taken to actively invite children to participate in a particular aspect and not be instructed to do something.
- It is an educational activity, firmly linked to the school's aims and objectives.
- It contributes significantly to the overall learning opportunities offered in school.
- It provides an arena and opportunity to develop tolerance of all faiths whilst promoting the search for meaning through the pupil's own life and lives of others in their own faith.
- It provides an opportunity for inward reflection leading to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which people can live generously with others.
- It seeks to develop the spirit of enquiry, a desire to follow truth and to search for meaning in life.
- Collective Worship aims to develop an understanding of the Christian faith so that our children can become responsible, considerate, involved and happy members of God's world.

**Collective Worship at Bournebrook is based on core beliefs that are common to all Christians:-**

### **The Trinity**

God is revealed through three different ways.

God the Father

God the Son – Jesus Christ

God the Holy Spirit

The Trinity is explored as a whole school theme in the summer term and also in Collective Worship.

### **Belief in God as Creator**

Worship should encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world and its people

## **Belief in Jesus**

The life of Jesus, especially his birth, death and resurrection, lies at the heart of the Christian understanding of God and his love. Stories from the gospels provide opportunities for insight into spiritual and moral teaching.

## **Belief in the Holy Spirit**

The power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians is proof of God's life. In worship this may be approached through stories of individual people and organisations that have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The work of the church for the poor and oppressed of the world is also an activity of the Holy Spirit.

## **The Bible**

The Bible has a unique authority as God's word for Christians, and its use is central in Christian worship and life.

## **Salvation**

The theme of Salvation is explored throughout Lent in Collective Worship and a whole school focus.

## **Incarnation**

Incarnation is explored through a whole school focus and Collective Worship in the weeks leading to Christmas.

## **Implementation and Organisation**

An Act of Collective Worship is a special time for children to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek answers to questions (as far as their intellectual and spiritual development allows).

At Bournebrook, a wide range of people, including children, are encouraged to lead Collective Worship. All teachers currently take an active role in leading worship, with the Headteacher taking a more prominent role. We aim to enhance the school's Christian character by inviting members of our local church into school to lead worship on a regular basis and a Christian group, Open the Book also join us half termly for worship.

Worship takes the pattern of gathering together with a greeting (usually The Lord is Here to which children respond His Spirit is With Us), a period in which there is sharing / engagement, time for reflection , a song of praise, prayer and the sending off of children (usually to Spread Peace and Joy wherever you go, to which children respond Amen).

We have a theme each half-term. During the week the theme is developed in a range of different Collective Worship settings:

### **Monday**

The Headteacher or member of the church introduces the theme for the week and the whole school worship follows the themes in the 'Values for Life' scheme.

### **Tuesday**

The whole school worship takes the theme of Songs of Praise.

### **Wednesday**

The Headteacher, senior teachers or member of the church builds upon the chosen theme in a whole school assembly.

### **Thursday**

All teaching staff lead an assembly on a rota basis which is linked to the theme. There is also the opportunity to celebrate children's out of school achievements.

### **Friday**

Celebration Assembly takes place. At this assembly achievements in school, birthdays and special happenings are recognised and celebrated. Parents and friends of the school are invited to our weekly Celebration Assembly on Friday mornings.

- Parents and friends are invited to acts of Worship which are held in church to commemorate special festivals or occasions, and these are Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of term services.
- Collective Worship is co-ordinated by the Headteacher, supported by the RE coordinator. The Headteacher monitors the range and variety of experiences being offered to the children and offers the opportunity for feedback from the children. This takes the form of a book of reflection which is completed by children after each act of worship.
- Worship may also be led by members of our Christian community and may involve visitors from charitable organisations.
- The format of Collective Worship will vary and may include song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. Periods of silence for reflection and the lighting of candles are an intrinsic part.
- Worship may also take place in out of school times, as in our Church services and our links with Coventry Cathedral.
- The need for active participation by all concerned in Collective Worship is acknowledged. Awareness, appreciation, respect, commitment, understanding, questioning, devotion and praise are responses that Collective Worship should invite from the children (acknowledging their personal levels of understanding, awareness and spiritual development).
- Within the collective worship and church context, children are given the opportunity to lead the worship.
- We aim to create a "worshipful" atmosphere, whether indoor or outdoor, in which pupil behaviour and movement is appropriate. Opportunities are given for quiet, reflective times as well as songs and music.
- Opportunities for worship throughout the day include: prayer before lunch and our afternoon prayer at the end of the school day. This happens in all classes every day.

- Our children learn by heart many prayers including the Lord's Prayer.
- Prayer focus areas are a permanent feature in the classrooms and in the school hall. These reflect the key Christian Values, are age appropriate and are designed to promote active participation rather than being just a display. Children's prayers are kept in the areas and may be used for lunchtime and afternoon prayer.
- Prayers for Worship are written by a children's prayer group, and are based on the themes. The group is regularly changed and they work collaboratively, discussing the theme before writing prayers.
- A range of resources are available for use during collective worship, i.e. liturgical clock, crosses, candles, etc. to stimulate reflection.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The following strategies are ways in which we assess the outcomes of Collective Worship.

- The Headteacher, assisted by the Foundation Governors, monitors the balance and delivery of the acts of collective worship to ensure that the aims and objectives are being addressed.
- Children's reflections and responses to collective worship are recorded.
- Informal observations of children's attentiveness and level of interest during acts of collective worship.
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and their relationships with one another.

### **Equal Opportunities and SEN**

As Collective Worship in our school is about affirming the equality of each child, we are committed to ensuring that every child in school will derive some benefit from Collective Worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or academic ability.

### **Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship**

It is hoped that parents will accept the value of worship as an important part of school life. Parents do, however, have the right to remove their child from acts of Collective Worship. Any child not attending Collective Worship will be adequately supervised, but the Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship arrangements for him/her.

Date of review 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Collective Worship Coordinator:	Alison Patchett
Collective Worship Governor:	Reverend Ian Kennedy

Date of next review: Spring 2020.