



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School

**'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'**



In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. As a proud Church school, we are rooted in love. We aspire to nurture and help our children flourish as respectful, compassionate citizens who seek to positively contribute to our local community and the world beyond.

Our school family role model our Christian values of:

\*Courage \*Hope \*Aspiration \*Compassion \*Forgiveness \*Trust \*Respect

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

### Policy Statement

At St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

### Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.

Our Governing Body has the responsibility of ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

### The right of withdrawal

At our school there are families who are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship; as stated in the 1944 and 1988 Education Act. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Head Teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

### **Collective worship at St Bartholomew's Primary School**

Collective worship at St Bartholomew's Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

### **How Collective worship is organised**

#### **Leadership**

- Mrs Jenny Coram has overall responsibility for leading the planning and development of Collective Worship.
- All Teachers have responsibility for planning and delivering a Worship linked to the termly planning document.

## Planning

- It is well planned for: using Roots and Fruits as a foundation: and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. Other global events throughout the year such as Fair-trade fortnight, Black History month etc. are also planned for and shared as part of the worship timetable.
- Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching.
- The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council and our Collective Worship Assistants. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship through their role of Collective Worship Assistants. Other groups of children such as the Eco Council, Rotakids and Forget-Me-Nots take an active role in leading worship. Class workshops are beginning to take place.

## Organisation

- Collective Worship takes place in the hall, however when appropriate we Worship at the Memorial and in our outdoor environment.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Focus:	Global Christianity/ Awe and Wonder	Singing worship.	Roots and Fruits.	Rainbow Value and British Value	Celebration
Led by:	Miss Davis and Mrs Sheppard	Mr Woodley and Mrs Samuel	Mrs Court and Mr Fordon	Mrs Coram and Mrs Feierabend	Mrs Coward

- We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There is also space for evaluation.
- The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year are used on the altar,
- The Gathering liturgical response is 'May the Peace of the Lord be with you'... *'And also with you'*.
- The Sending Liturgical response is 'Go in Peace'... *'We go in Peace'*... 'Go in Joy' *'We go in Joy'* ... Go in Love'... *'We go in love' Amen*
- Children are seated in years groups with the EYFS children sat at the front and Year 6 on benches at the back. The Collective Worship Assistants set up the hall and lead prayers and parts of the worship at the front with the teacher.
- At our School Worship takes places each day from 14.55-15:10 in the hall.

## Koinonia Bowl

On our Worship Table we keep our Koinonia Bowl. Each child puts a leaf into the bowl to symbolise their belonging and our fellowship together as a school. Like the leaves, each one of us is unique, bringing our gifts and talents to contribute to the whole. When the present Year 6 children move on they will take with them a leaf from the bowl to symbolise that, though they may leave St Bartholomew's, the joy of learning and memories of the life that we have shared together goes with them.

## Roles and Responsibilities

All **staff** have a responsibility to maintain and support the Christian ethos of the school through the collective worship within the school. Wherever possible it is good practice for staff to make links throughout the week to the theme of collective worship so that children and staff see it as an integral element of school and their learning. Staff all need to be aware of the attitudes towards collective worship that they are nurturing or inadvertently promoting. Staff are responsible for proactively seeking relevant professional development.

The **role of the governing body** is to take account of the legal requirements, the school Trust Deed and guidelines issued by the diocese. Governors should ensure that collective worship is appropriately reviewed as part of the school improvement plan and be actively involved in the review process. Governors should be aware of the requirement under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) for the inspection of collective worship. It is a statutory requirement that a school prospectus/website includes details of collective worship provided at the school. These details should inform parents of the parental right to withdraw their child from collective worship. The arrangements and provision made for those children withdrawn from worship should be clearly stated. Governors are responsible for proactively seeking relevant professional development.

The **role of the head teacher** is to ensure that governors and staff are well informed and receive training in order to implement this policy on collective worship. The head teacher has the responsibility of a governor, as above, but should also actively seek professional development through the diocese or nationally to support their role as the 'spiritual leader' of the school community. Head teachers may designate the responsibility for co-ordinating collective worship to a member, or members, of staff (a team could include pupils, staff, governors, clergy, parents).

### **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Collective Worship is monitored termly through formal observations of worship and collecting pupil voice. Observation feedback is shared with Staff and Governors.

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review: GB2 2021



Head Teacher signed:

Date: GB2 2023

Chair of Governors signed: *C Govier* Date: GB2 2023