

Collective Worship Policy

Brixworth CEVC Primary School



Last reviewed on:	February 2024
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Approved by:	Governing Board
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School Vision – ‘Be the best that you can be’

academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually within a safe, healthy, inspirational and enjoyable environment.

Through our school vision, we want every child to reach their God given potential.



Rationale

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and adults in our school an opportunity to come together to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian Ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Our school understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our school is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of our school.

Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of our Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the school community to worship God;
- To enable the school community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children and adults to explore their own beliefs and develop a reflective approach to life;
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in our children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping

- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals, School Values and achievements;
- To enable our children to feel safe and affirmed.

At times, worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual growth
- Consider moral issues in a Christian Context
- Enhance social understanding
- Explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place daily in the school hall or in classrooms. We follow the seasons of the church year and within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way, creating a time for calm reflection. Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and lighting candles as a focal point for the attention of the children. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local church communities. Our children are also given opportunities to plan and lead worship throughout the year.

The Headteacher usually leads collective Worship on a Monday, with our Wednesday worship led by the Vicar from All Saints Church most weeks. Friday is our celebration assembly, which offers an opportunity for children to share their achievements and learning in celebration of our core values; the Deputy Headteacher usually leads this. Tuesday and Thursday's Collective worship is led either by a member of staff, or by faith members of our community. Each class will plan and lead an act of Collective Worship over the school year. We also have class-based worship every 2-3 weeks planned by the Collective Worship Lead and led by class teachers.

Content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is carefully planned to reflect the vision and core values of our school. We also have a termly Christian value to focus on. The nine values were chosen by the children, parents, staff and governors. They are shared in a three-year rolling programme. Each value has a linked bible verse, quote and hymn/song – see Appendix 1.

Collective worship is planned to include the following four elements:

1. **Welcome** – creating a special place where all feel welcome and where we are invited to draw close to God (this should include the use of music, candles, artefacts and images)
2. **Learning** – focussed learning about God and His world that will be inspiring and thought provoking (this should include the resources used, such as stories, drama, poems, art, etc.)
3. **Reflecting** –reflecting upon/thinking about what God might be saying through our worship (this could include using questions, music, talking partners, mediation)
4. **Responding** – responding, being challenged or inspired to take action as a result of our act of worship (this element should finish with an invitational prayer).

Prayer is an important part of our worship time. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce children to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practises of the Church of England. Children who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to continue their reflection on the important messages shared in worship.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. Our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship. Children and adults in our school community are involved in the evaluation and monitoring of Collective Worship.

A Legal Note

By law, Collective Worship must be provided for every child every day and it must reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and inspiring/reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit the school to speak with the Headteacher. The Headteacher will keep a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Our Termly Values

	Year A	Year B
Autumn 1	Vision & Bees	Vision & Bees
Autumn 2	Love	Kindness
Spring 1	Spiritually Aware	Global Citizens
Spring 2	Peace	Service
Summer 1	Courage	Forgiveness
Summer 2	Thankfulness	Truth

Year A

Value	Key Bible Verse	Quote	Hymn/Song
Love	John 15 v 12 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.'	"Where there is love there is life." Mahatma Gandhi	Fighting for Love (iSingPop) Fighting for love - YouTube
Peace	John 14 v 27 'I leave you peace; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid.'	"It isn't enough to talk about peace . One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." Eleanor Roosevelt	My Prayer Tonight (iSingPop) My prayer tonight - YouTube
Courage	Joshua 1 v 9 'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'	" Courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear." Nelson Mandela	Brave (Saddleback Kids) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCC9fGnHH4I
Thankfulness	1 Thessalonians 5 v16 'Always be thankful.'	"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." Alice Morse Earle	Thank You (iSingPop) Thank You/Sing Hosanna (FULL OFFICIAL VIDEO) - as seen at Big Church Festival 2022 - YouTube

Year B

Value	Key Bible Verse	Quote	Hymn/Song
Kindness	Colossians 3 v 12 'Clothe yourselves with compassion , kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'	"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop	The Golden Rule (iSingPop) The Golden Rule Weird Animals Music Video Group Publishing - YouTube
Service	Galatians 5 v13 'Serve one another in love.'	"You are what you do, not what you say you will do." C.G. Jung	Shine & Serve Yancy - Shine and Serve [OFFICIAL LYRIC VIDEO] from Kidmin Worship Vol. 5 Missions & Serving - YouTube
Forgiveness	Colossians 3 v 13 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive others.'	"Without forgiveness there is no future... If you can forgive , then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person." Desmond Tutu	This is Our World (iSingPop)
Truth	Zechariah 8 v 16 'Tell the truth to each other.'	"To be truthful with others, you must first be truthful with yourself." Anon.	Stand Together (Kingdom Rock VBS)