

St.Barnabas
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Creating Unique Possibilities



St Petroc's Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Our School Mission Statement

Through God's love and lessons, we care, share and grow together

Our School Vision

Bring it!

Our School Values

Courage, Creativity, Friendship

The structure and planning of collective worship is based around our Bring it! vision which is based upon the parable of the talents. Our worship like our school seeks to provide an oasis of calm and peace where no child or adult is judged, where everyone can live peacefully together. Our 'Bring It!' vision gives hope, raises aspiration, provides opportunity for everyone and invites our children to bring courage, creativity, and friendship to school every day. We want our children to utilise their talents and embrace the opportunities that they are given so that they can flourish as individuals but also help others to flourish.

Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.¹

¹ *The Church of England Education Office, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10*

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of creativity, courage and friendship.

Aims of Collective Worship

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.
- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

Legal requirements

Collective worship:

- Is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body will ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.

Planning of worship

Worship is structured according to our liturgy plan. It is planned according to the Church calendar as well as national events and children's interests (see half-termly overview). Collective Worship is planned using Roots and Picture News (see collective worship PPTs). Roots is used because it mirrors our liturgy and contains resources that we can adapt e.g., prayers, readings, drama and images. CW is typically led by the HT and AHT, as well as pupils.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school or key stage.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- Invitational – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- Inspiring – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

Pattern of Worship

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and/or the lighting of a candle)*
- Engage – we share, for example, *(a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)*
- Respond – pupils, for example, *(discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)*
- Send – we share, for example, *(the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer, music, liturgy and/or the blowing out of our special candle)*

Collective worship leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading aspects of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and our school’s vision.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including pupils, parents, and visitors. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

Evaluation / Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader in consultation with the Headteacher and ratified every three years by the Governing Body.

Updated: July 2024

Review: July 2027

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