

Bickerton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Person responsible for policy:

Paul Sweetnam

Approved:

14th February 2022

Signed:

Claire Carman, Chair of Governors

To be reviewed:

FGB 3 2025

'Life in all its fullness' John (10:10)

Our School Prayer

This is our school,
Let peace be here,
Let it be full of happiness.
Let love be here.
Love of one another,
Love of everyone,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Amen

Our Mission Statement

Respect for oneself and others is central to our mission of giving every child in our school the highest standard of education and care within a Christian community.

Our School Rules

Respect and take care of each other.
Treat others how you would like to be treated.
Share and use the school's equipment and environment carefully.
Listen to each other and to adults at school.
Help others to learn.

Section A: Policies

General

This section contains the policies that the governing body has determined shall apply to the school. Procedures specified by the head teacher to implement these policies are detailed in Section B.

The following terminology is used in this section:

- “may” indicates a suggestion by the governing body to the head teacher
- “should” indicates a recommendation by the governing body to the head teacher and indicates what the governing body considers to be best practice
- “must” indicates a mandatory requirement determined by the governing body

Where the head teacher is unable to implement any mandatory requirement specified in this section he must report the fact to the next meeting of the governing body and, in urgent matters, to the chair of governors.

Introduction

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, collective worship has an important part to play in our affirmation of faith and in shared witness. Collective worship helps to shape the Christian ethos of our school community. Following the teaching of Christ, collective worship takes place when two or three are gathered together in Jesus’ name. It is therefore not restricted to whole school collective worship in the hall or in church, but takes place in every classroom when prayers are said in the morning, at the end of the day or when we say our grace together. It is fundamental to our school. Every child here and every adult who works for our school should take part in collective worship every day we are at school.

Legal Requirements

The school must fulfil the requirements of The Education Reform Act 1996 as amended by the Schools Standards and Framework act 1998 which says, “Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of

collective worship.” Collective worship should take place on the school premises, at church or on occasions may take place elsewhere. Worship should be ‘wholly or mainly’ of a broadly Christian character reflecting the varying traditions of Christian beliefs.

Equal Opportunities

Our school has an inclusive ethos which does not discriminate on any grounds including religion, race, ability or gender. (Please refer to our Equal Opportunities, Equality and Diversity Policy.) If a family does not wish their child to take part in daily acts of collective worship, they have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. The head teacher should discuss the issue with the family, but their wishes must be respected. However, this is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. Parents who choose to send their children here will usually feel that the school’s ethos is appropriate, will consider it to be acceptable to them and will share that ethos.

Collective worship takes place daily. All children should feel valued whatever their faith.

Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils to celebrate the values and achievements of both the school and the community. A variety of themes will be offered for reflection and all pupils of any religion may be present and participate as appropriate. Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background.

Section B: Procedures

Aims of Collective Worship

Through collective worship we aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral and religious development of the children and adults in our school by:

- Fostering a sense of fellowship by bringing children together as a class or whole school to celebrate shared Christian values of the school and community;
- Fostering a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world;
- Exploring certain ideas, activities, attitudes and feelings with a view to understanding them from a religious perspective;
- Fostering concern for the needs of other people;
- Providing an experience of being part of a caring community;
- Fostering new insights about life and empathy for others.

Through collective worship we hope to give the opportunity to:

- Reflect on our own and others' experiences;
- Help children and adults to find out more about themselves;
- Learn more about the world in which we live;
- Consider the beliefs of others and how they influence people;
- Explore prayer;
- Praise God;
- Give opportunities to be still, quiet and reflective;
- Respond to stories and music;
- Develop a caring attitude towards self and others.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is organised through a variety of ways. These take the form of:

- Prayers in class at the beginning or end of the day led by the class teacher or children;

- Prayers in class such as grace before meals;
- Whole school collective worship (known as 'Assembly') with head teacher or deputy head on school specific and moral issues;
- Whole school assembly with biblical and faith focus led by our vicar, at which the majority of staff will be present;
- Whole school assembly with issues relating to PSHCE or biblical and faith focus led by teachers on rota basis;
- Whole school sharing assembly, at which the majority of staff will be present;
- Whole school hymn practice with reflection led by a couple of teachers.

Content

Acts of worship are derived from half-termly themes or arise from current issues in the school. Themes are based on Christian values and celebrations in the Church of England calendar which include festivals from Christianity. Acts of worship can include music, hymns, stories, reflection and prayer.

Participation

The head teacher and members of staff are involved in leading collective worship. Every effort is made to involve children, where appropriate. Worship leaders (children) help gather feedback from the children and provide suggestions for worship. We have a 'worship group' comprising children who are keen to help with the design of worship and a member of staff. Together with the member of staff, the children in the worship group will learn new songs which they will then teach to the other children in our worship time. They will also plan and lead some collective worship and some services. The Vicar of Holy Trinity Church visits weekly to lead whole school collective worship in the form of an assembly in the hall. We also welcome other visitors into the school to help broaden the children's experiences.

Special events

The school celebrates many important events in the Christian calendar. Each year the school celebrates Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as other events. At times of major festivals

children are given opportunities to share in an act of worship at Holy Trinity Church with whom we enjoy very warm relations.