



Bishop John Robinson
Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Be the best we can;

Join in Learning, Play and Prayer;

Remember God's Word

"Jesus is the Anchor of my Soul." Hebrews 9:16



The Diocese of
Southwark



Mission Statement

We want all adults and children to: **Be the best they can** in order to have best possible start in life and to make the most of the gifts God has given. To achieve this, we teach everyone *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"* (Colossians 3:23) by;

- Set ambitious targets for all pupils and staff
- Continually look for ways to improve
- Have high expectations of behaviour for all

We encourage children to: **Join in Learning**, to promote academic excellence and to inspire everyone to value the importance of education in wider society. The bible teaches us God will *"Instruct us in the way of knowledge and wisdom and lead us along straight paths"* (Proverbs 4:11). To achieve this we;

- Provide an engaging curriculum with opportunities for learning in a variety of contexts
- Strive for all lessons to be focussed and engaging to allow all children to achieve
- Support deeper levels of understanding so that children can apply learning to different settings

For children to: **Join in Play** is important at BJR because Play is essential for everyone's social and emotional development. It is a vital life skill which helps children to form the adult they will become building trust, forgiveness and resilience. Play is the foundation for learning compassion and the Golden Rule *"Do to others as you would have them do to you"* (Luke 6:31). To promote positive play we;

- Have dedicated staff who promote play EVERY PLAYTIME
- Promote the importance of play through PLAY DAYS
- Invest in the playground as a learning resource

We want the school community to: **Join in Prayer** as Christians believe that this is fundamental to developing a relationship with God as well as giving thanks and praise. We should *"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will."* (Thessalonians 5:16-18). We encourage this though;

- High quality collective worship for all children
- Daily acts of prayer
- Valuing the essential role of our School Chaplain

We believe that we should: **Remember God's Word**, as this is at the very Foundation of being a Christian school. In promoting a practical understanding and application of Christian Values we strive to; *"Train up a child in the way they should go, And when they are old they will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6) through;

- Providing High quality RE teaching and daily collective worship for all children
- Regular visits to church and other places of worship

In all aspects of school life, our school vision is key to ensuring that Bishop John Robinson CofE Primary School offers the best education money can't buy. Our history and naval links, our entire spiritual and ethical ethos, and our approach to the school's curriculum is rooted in our individual and corporate identity: *"Jesus is the anchor of my soul."* (Hebrews 9:16).

Collective Worship According to the Education Act (1944) and the Education Reform Act (1988)

The Education Reform Act (1988) states that all pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship. This may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups. This can take place at any time during the day.

Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests at a voluntary school with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. Collective worship should generally take place on the school premises. However, Governing Bodies of aided schools do have discretion to organise collective worship elsewhere on special occasions.

Parents of a child at any school may request that their child should be withdrawn from religious worship and the child must be excused attendance. (Section 225 (4) of the Education Act (1944)). The right of withdrawal only applies to that part of the school Collective Worship that forms the act of worship – not to ordinary school business.

Collective Worship at Bishop John Robinson CofE Primary School

What is Worship?

The following is offered as a possible definition:-

‘Worship has to do with worth and worthness. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the ‘worth-ship’ of certain realities and values, held to be of central importance to the community which worships. The act of worshipping renews the meaning of these realities and values for the community, helping each of its members to grasp them personally. The community focuses on what it knows to be of great or supreme worth, hence worthy of preservation and promotion, and of its member’s dedication’.

“Paths to Understanding”
(RE Handbook – Hampshire 1980)

Aims

We believe that the aims of Collective Worship at Bishop John Robinson School are to enable both staff and pupils to:

- Promote the school’s Christian ethos and affirm the ideas and values of Christianity, through joining in prayer and remembering God’s word. However, we ensure all pupils in this school, of whatever belief system, feel as comfortable as possible while taking part in any acts collective worship.
- Allow pupils to reflect on the teachings of God and the ways in which it impacts upon their lives.
- Bring pupils to the threshold of worship in an open and honest atmosphere, showing children that worship is an experience that some people do have and that they can enter into.
- Encourage a reflective approach of life, helping children to recognise the spiritual dimension of life.
- Promote in the children an interest and enjoyment of taking part in the life and worship of their own local church.
- Enable everyone to feel part of our school community, developing a sense of belonging and shared understanding of our Christian Values.
- Help children respond to experiences of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, belonging etc. and so encourage pupils to express their responses in a variety of ways; music, dance, drama, art, poetry, prayer etc.

- Help the children share their own experiences so that they see the value of sharing with others in the school community.
- Explore immediate moral issues, events in the daily news, in the local area and in school.
- Increase children's sensitivity and awareness of the needs of others, opening up their horizons beyond their own experiences.

As a church school, our acts of collective worship take place within a framework of Christian values and beliefs. However, we ensure that worship is a worthwhile experience for all members of our school community, recognising that it will mean different things to different people.

'The basis of school worship is that during an individual act of worship, some of those present will be worshipping, some will be experiencing something like worship, others will be finding out what it might be like to worship. In the course of this, as a result of the varied pattern of worship offered by the school, those who are worshipping will have their experience of worship broadened, and those who are not worshipping will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are. Both of these results are educational in a broad sense, and therefore a valid objective for a school.'

"A Shared Vision"
(D. W. Lanksheer 1992)

Organisation of Collective Worship at Bishop John Robinson Primary School

Collective Worship within school is a planned activity, with a specific focus linked to our monthly value. It is planned termly in conjunction with our school chaplain, senior staff, the Spiritual Leader and pupils. At Bishop John Robinson School our collective worship takes a number of forms:

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship – Bible-based focus of weekly theme	HT
Tuesday	Whole School Collective Worship – 'Hero' of the week's theme	HT
Wednesday	House Assemblies (including an act of worship)	SLT
Thursday	Praise and Worship	Teachers
Friday	Thanksgiving: Celebration of Achievements	SLT

At BJR we follow an annual cycle of Values, which are explored in Collective Worship and through class teaching. Pupils are commended for 'living' these values throughout the year.

Collective Worship also includes key Christian Festivals and events and our focused table recognises the Liturgical Seasons through the use of coloured cloths from around the world, that represent the countries reflected within our school community.

Leading Lights: Pupil Faith Team

The Leading Lights team work with our Spiritual Lead to plan and regularly deliver Collective Worship. They have led whole school collective worship in school as well as services at church.

Services are held at St Paul's throughout the year:

- New School Year
- Harvest
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter
- Leavers

Residential Visits

A reflective Collective Worship is planned daily during residential visits.

We expect our collective worship at Bishop John Robinson School to be a worthwhile, meaningful experience for all, whatever their level of participation and whatever their religious background.

“In our schools are also children of faiths other than Christianity. Our schools serve a plural society; they cater for children of various religions and none. We ought not to take it for granted that all children will and should join in Christian Worship”

Visitors

Parents, visitors and Governors are welcome to attend any Collective Worship throughout the week. All staff are expected to attend Collective Worship throughout the week.

Alongside the whole school worship, pupils are given the opportunity to pray before lunch and before going home. Pupils are also able to use the reflective areas throughout the school day.

Elements of Collective Worship at Bishop John Robinson CofE Primary

At BJR, Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring to the school community and offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through a range of elements including;

a) Music

Music can be part of Collective Worship in a number of ways. We do not always have to have a song that everyone can sing. We encourage children to listen to different types of music, religious or otherwise. If we do use songs that we would like everyone to sing then we introduce them properly and carefully, explaining what the song means and perhaps its religious background and implications.

b) God's Word

Vital to our Collective Worship is the sharing of God's word. At BJR we use lessons from the bible to highlight the importance of God's teachings on our lives and the impact that our actions might have on others around us.

c) Talk

In all Collective Worship talking to the children will be an integral part of the Collective Worship. We need to make sure that what is said is relevant to the children present, bearing in mind their abilities, ages and their religious and cultural backgrounds and that the talk supports the pupils in growing and developing both spiritually and morally, in line with our Christian Values.

d) Sharing

Sharing within Collective Worship can take different forms, which are invaluable in affirming the worth of children's emotional and learning experiences. Opportunities exist for pupils to reflect on situations/God's word and apply this to their own lives and values. Alongside this, pupils are able to share their knowledge of faiths and values. These opportunities can also be used as a time to build children's self-esteem and support the development of the whole child.

e) Liturgy

“Liturgy” literally means, “work of the people”, and points to the fact that something else is going on beyond prayer. It is the formalising of worship, at the heart of which is symbol and action. Liturgy

makes explicit the celebration within worship and draw together more formal aspects e.g. Call and Response.

f) Visiting Speakers

We aim to have visitors join us regularly to take part in and lead Collective Worship. Other speakers from local or national / international organisations are also encouraged, to widen children's horizons e.g. Greenwich Food Bank, Christian Aid etc. All visitors to the school need to be aware of our statement on collective worship (Appendix 3).

g) Prayer

Every Collective Worship offers opportunities for thought and reflection. We usually pray during every Collective Worship, although alternative opportunities to reflect, for example to music, with a lit candle are also included. Prayers addressed to God involve children in an activity, which makes assumptions about commitment. But prayer is more than a set of words with 'Amen' at the end. It is a complex activity made up of many strands. Prayer is among other things, reflection, response and communication, these are the aspects we explore in Collective Worship.

The following extracts offer some guidelines on prayer in Collective Worship.

i. Reflection

Moments of reflection (often accompanied by a lit candle) allow our staff and pupils to focus on the message they have heard and reflect on their own human behaviours.

ii. Stillness/Silence

Stillness/silence enables contemplative prayer, which offers the opportunity for deep spiritual connections. This process of silent prayer focuses on be present with God, rather than offering thoughts and requests in prayer.

iii. Communication

Many prayers that we use in school are collaborative and offer the opportunity for staff and pupils to communicate with requests and thanks to God.

iv. Pupils Prayers

Children's own prayers are also a very important part of our collective worship. They communicate a particular response from a pupil and invite others to share it.

v. Formal Prayers

Sometimes formal prayers are used. Collective Worship is a time when we can introduce children to the outward ritual of prayers. For example, The Lord's Prayer is used in Collective Worship as a whole class prayer, but pupils are also taught the meaning behind it, so it does not just become rote learning.

Prayer is effectively approached by encouraging reflection, response and the creative use of silence, e.g. "let us think about ..." "let us close our eyes, joins hands and think about". Pupils may be introduced to famous prayers from the great religious traditions. These will need introduction, explanation and sensitive use. There is all the difference in the world between; "I would like to share with you this great Christian Prayer about" and the use of prayer in ways that uncompromisingly assume specific religious commitment on the part of all present.

"Collective Worship Line"

(R. Gregory)

Reflective Areas

Each classroom has a reflective area, where pupils can go if they require any quiet reflective time. School also has an outdoor reflective area for pupils to access during their lunch/break time.

Prayer mornings

All of the school community, including parents, pupils and staff, are welcome to a prayer morning once per month, led by our school Faith Leader.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupils have the opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship and the impact on their lives at the end of each value. These sheets are completed in class and stored within the pupils learning books. Senior Leaders evaluate the provision of Collective Worship on an annual basis to ensure that it is meeting the needs of our pupils and assisting them in the development of their spiritual, moral and social development.

Appendix 1 GUIDELINES ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Staff leading Collective Worship

Staff should ensure they are prepared for their Collective Worship in advance.

- Staff should set the hall up with 'altar table' as a focus for worship: table cloth (which is the correct colour for the liturgical calendar), cross and candle
- Play quiet calming music as the pupils enter the hall.
- The Powerpoint (or alternative material) should be displayed.
- The liturgical greeting should be shared.
- Allow opportunities for pupils to sing, but ensure they know the song.
- Try to ensure that children always have a role within the worship. This could be planned or spontaneous, individually, in groups or as a whole community. Be creative and allow the children freedom and opportunities to be creative within the worship experiences.
- Children should be given a chance to discuss, in talk partners, share their ideas/answers to a posed wondering question (I wonder what respect means? What does it look like in our school?)
- There should be a time for children to be still and silent to reflect and think about the key thoughts and or the Bible message
- Children should be given opportunity to pray, which might be personally (silently) or out loud as a group or on behalf of the other children or in other ways
- It is important to send the children out with a thought, verse, prayer or question to enable them to continue their thinking and spur them into action (when appropriate) following the worship session
- The end of worship provides a good opportunity to close with an Anglican liturgical sending or blessing prayer and to extinguish the candle to show that worship has ended.

Classes leading Collective Worship/Services in Church

Staff should ensure they are prepared for their Collective Worship in advance.

- Staff should ensure preparation for Collective Worship fits in to their planned learning.
- Pupils should have enough time to practice their lines and refine any presentations etc.
- The hall should be set up in advance and pupils should practice prior to the event e.g. if you are using microphones on the day, pupils should practice using microphones and they should be set up in advance of the Collective Worship.
- Staff should set the hall up with 'altar table' as a focus for worship: table cloth (which is the correct colour for the liturgical calendar), cross and candle

- Play quiet calming music as the pupils enter the hall.
- Ensure your pupils practice reading in a clear voice to the audience and hold the card they are reading from down. This should offer pupils the opportunity to develop their confidence in public speaking.
- Shared worship offers opportunities for pupils to express themselves through performance – dance, drama, art, singing.
- The end of worship should close with an Anglican liturgical sending or prayer.

Appendix 2

SETTING UP THE HALL FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Pupils should wear their Purple band.

Computer Operator

- Switch on the laptop, logging in with Username: Hall Password: Hall
- Turn on the Projector
- Turn on the sound system
- Open the Collective Worship Folder to access PowerPoints, Music and Worship Songs

Candle Monitor

- Switch on the Light for the Cross
- Close the curtains nearest the projector
- Uncover the Lectern and place at the front
- Place the Altar table next to the Lectern
- Place the Altar Cover and Candle Spots on the Altar table

Hall Monitors

- Switch on one main light switch (nearest doors)
- Place 6 benches in position for Year 6
- Put out 10 chairs on each side of the hall

At the start and end of Collective Worship

- Hall Monitors hold doors open for pupils and staff
- Candle Monitor stays by Altar and directs pupils to place / collect their class candles
- Computer Operator ensures music volume is appropriate

Once all pupils and staff have left the hall, pack away chairs, benches and Altar and switch all electrical devices off before returning to class.

Appendix 3

GUIDELINES ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FOR VISITING SPEAKERS

We are very grateful to you for offering to come and take part in our worship at Bishop John Robinson School. Our theme for this half-term is 'Love, what love is and how Jesus can teach us about God's love' and the ways in which people's beliefs have influenced their lives. Please feel free to use this theme, if you wish.

We hope the following points will be helpful to you as you prepare for the Collective Worship.

- In our Collective Worship we have children aged 4 – 11 years old so there is a need to make sure the content is relevant as far as possible to all the children.
- We usually have one or two songs that you can choose beforehand or you may wish to bring new songs in to introduce to the children.
- Our Collective Worship are 20 minutes total in length (including songs and prayers if used).
- A member of the Senior Leadership team will introduce you to the children and staff, and will dismiss the children at the end of the worship time.
- We usually have a prayer in the Collective Worship (please see relevant section in the collective Worship Policy). We do have prayers written by children in the school, which you may wish to use.
- We have facilities for PowerPoints etc. Please email this to the school office in advance.
- Please arrive **at least** ten minutes before Collective Worship starts so that the children enter the hall to find us prepared and waiting for them.
- Please also contact the school in advance of the day of your Collective Worship to discuss songs, content etc.

We look forward to your visit. Please find enclosed a copy of the school's Collective Worship Policy for you to read before you come and see us. If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact us.