

**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.**

Implemented	Sept 2019
Presented by	J Richardson
Ratified by Governors	
Review Date	Sept 2019
Next Review Date	Sept 2021
Signed and Dated by Chair of Governors	Signed _____ Dated _____

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;

- 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. 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. 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 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 he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) through;

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

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

This policy is reviewed every 2 years by the Senior Leadership Team, staff and governors.

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 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 Spritual Leader and pupils.

At Bishop John Robinson School our collective worship takes a number of forms:

Monday	Whole school Collective Worship on our value of the month (1x per month from global issues)	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole school Collective Worship on our value of the month – Autumn Term Whole school Collective Worship based on range of faiths studied in RE – Spring Term Whole School Collective Worship based on our class values – Summer Term	Teacher/Faith Team 1x per month Classes Classes (Appendix 1)
Wednesday	Whole school Collective Worship on our value of the month	Rev. Jane/ Rev. Patrick
Thursday	Whole school worship through singing.	Creative Leader
Friday	Whole school celebration worship, where the whole school celebrates pupils ‘living’ the Christian values.	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher

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.

Pupil Faith Team

Pupil Faith Team work with our Spiritual Lead to plan and deliver a Collective Worship once per month. This enables them to deliver a Worship session on each of our school values.

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”

‘Discovery an Approach’

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

All staff are expected to attend Collective Worship on allocated days throughout the week.

Worship through the day

Alongside the whole school worship, pupils are given the opportunity to pray:

- In the morning
- Before lunch
- Before going home

Elements of Collective Worship/Collective Worship at Bishop John Robinson 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 Worships 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 Worships 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 a visiting member of the clergy from our local church in once a week to lead Collective Worship. Other speakers from local or national/international organisations are also encouraged, to widen children's horizons eg. Greenwich Food Bank, Christian Aid etc.

All visitors to the school need to be aware of our statement on collective worship (Appendix 2).

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, eg. "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 Chaplain.

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 for the Value of the Month should be displayed on the whiteboard.
- 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. It should form part of their RE curriculum, alongside Speaking and Listening and The Thamesmed Cahrter.
- Pupils should have enough time to practice their lines and refine any drama 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 early on the morning 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.
- If pupils need to read lines, these should be on laminated sheets with the Oikumene symbol on the back.
- 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 provides a good opportunity to close with an Anglican liturgical sending or prayer.

- **Appendix 2**

**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 Worships 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 Worships are 20 minutes total in length (including songs and prayers if used). Our youngest children are 4 and find it difficult to concentrate for longer than this.
- 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 ring or call in **prior to 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.