

BRAMCOTE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

July 2024

Bramcote Church of England School Collective Worship Policy

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

We are a small Christian School with a family feel, we are proud to know our children and families well. We believe that each child is a valued member of our school community, a gift from God and we want our children to experience “Life in All Its Fullness” John 10:10 as part of living and loving like Jesus, so that everyone has the potential to grow in their own individual, unique way.

We are a community of learners built on mutual respect where we are all equal members regardless of religion, ethnicity, ability and family background. We want children to be proud of who they are as we promote acceptance, a freedom to be and foster curiosity.

Our Seven School Values; Respect, Co-operation, Honesty, Kindness, Perseverance, Creativity and Responsibility are inspired by Bible verses as we seek for them to shape our planning, our decisions and to define us as a school. We use our collective worship to promote our school values and as part of a wider opportunity for our children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We seek to empower our pupils to reach out and serve the wider community. We are situated in the heart of Bramcote and as such we have forged good links with our church; St Michael and All Angels, other local churches, charities and organisations.

‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At Bramcote C of E Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Bramcote C of E Primary School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Examples of this are given below.

INSPIRATIONAL	INVITATIONAL	INCLUSIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linking our worship to our school values• Opportunity to have active participation for adults and children• Linking worship to Charity Events both inside and outside of school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to sing worship songs both modern and traditional.• Inviting the children to pray – giving choice.• Time given to reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option to engage in prayer – “if you want to..)• Wide range of cultures and cultural figures are talked about and covered within the worship programme.• Child-led worship

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing real life stories of Courageous advocates and inspirational figures. • Sharing achievements and celebrating success. • Follow up activities giving time for self-reflection. • A range of leaders both inside and outside of school. • Children led worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting Parent/Carer to join our Family Worship and end of term services in Church. • Whole school community worshipping together. • Opportunity for children to share their thoughts, prayers and reflections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements of all celebrated. • SEND children are included • Worship Organisation Team (WOT club) •
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Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Bramcote C of E Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England³. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship as Bramcote C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of our school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

There are a numbers of children attending Bramcote C of E Primary School whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. *(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.*

Guiding Principles

At Bramcote C of E Primary School Collective worship aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.

- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was agreed in collaboration with the school governors, staff and children.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

Collective worship planning, leadership and organisation

We ensure that there is a daily collective worship which takes place at some part during the school day.

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	LED BY
Monday	9.00am	School Sports Hall	Headteacher
Tuesday	9:00am	Sports Hall	Rota Class Teacher
Wednesday	9.00am	School sports hall	St Michael's representative or WOT Club
Thursday	9:00am	School sports hall	Rota Class Teacher
Friday	2.45pm	School sports hall	"Bramcote Stars" Worship

A detailed half termly plan is produced this outlines themes, details and follow-up, inspirational words and bible references, reflection ideas and the school value it links to. Our worship reflects the cycle of the Church year and is planned according to this.

The range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle

Monday whole school worship is led by the headteacher and will be linked to the half-termly plan. It starts

off the week and introduces the reflection activity for the week.

Our Worship Organisation Team (WOT club) lead aspects of our collective worship on Wednesday mornings through reading, leading prayers and drama, sharing thoughts and reflections.

Teaching staff in school also lead worship or our Singing worship on a rota basis each week – these usually take place on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

Different classes will be invited to leads whole school worship once a year and parents are invited in to share the experience with the children. These are usually linked to recent learning or to the values that we have been focusing on.

On occasions during the term Visitors may also lead our worship e.g. clergy or worship leaders from other Churches, members of the Diocese.

The school sports hall setting reflects the centrality of worship to all that we do in school. An emphasis has been placed on creating this space for worship, displayed upon the walls are our own interpretation of the Understanding Christianity big freeze – these are based on the core concepts which are woven together to form part of the 'big story' of salvation, as understood within Christianity.

During collective worship we aim to provide a variety of worship experiences which fully involve the children: operating the sound and visual technology, contributions of readings, prayers and drama. We may light a candle to aid with reflection or play soft music. We regularly use child friendly liturgy as a means of gathering and welcoming everyone to worship.

At the end of every term we will hold our whole school collective worship at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Bramcote. We invite governors, parents, carers and friends of the school to join us in celebrating the work of school and church over the term. In addition to this we also use the church at other points during the year e.g. for our welcome service in September.

Equality

As our Equality policy states At Bramcote C of E Primary School we endeavour to have “Life in all its Fullness”

- We believe that each child is a valued member of our school community, a gift from God and we want our children to experience “Life in All Its Fullness” John 10:10 as part of living and loving like Jesus, so that everyone has the potential to grow in their own individual, unique way.
- We will learn together to create a happy, caring, stimulating, creative and Christian Community. We believe each person to be a gift and will love, encourage and nurture each other to unwrap and achieve our fullest potential in mind, body, heart and spirit to become the person God wants us to be.
- We respect and cherish the differences in others we are an inclusive school that welcomes all pupils regardless of background, special need, ability, gender or race.

- We believe that if each child is valued they will grow to have confidence and independence, having choices over their own destiny and be able to express themselves.
- We recognise and celebrate our similarities and differences and help our pupils to become kind, caring, tolerant, respectful and considerate members of the community.

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupil's beliefs. Whilst the teaching will reflect Christian doctrine, many of the themes and values will be inclusive to those of other or no faith, for example loving your neighbour, caring for others, taking care of the environment etc.

As in all areas of school life, we will make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEND are able to access collective worship.

Worship will provide opportunities for children to be actively included: saying 'Amen' at the end of prayers if they agree to; there are opportunities to use sign language within some of our songs that to ensure all children, regardless of age or ability, can fully engage with worship in school.

Roles and Responsibilities

As a Voluntary Aided Church School we need to ensure that members of our school community are aware of their roles and responsibilities in the delivery of collective worship within our school.

Governors

- Will fulfil their statutory duty, ensuring that collective worship meets legal requirements.

Link Governor

- A named link governor who is a foundation governor will monitor the quality of collective worship to ensure that it is consistent with the trust deed.

Headteacher

- Will liaise with the co-ordinator to plan each term's collective worship, ensuring that the key themes and the content of any materials are in keeping with the Christian ethos of the school.
- Will lead at least one worship per week and will oversee all acts of collective worship to ensure that the quality of delivery is of a consistently high standard.

Co-ordinator

- Will communicate with teachers and visitors to ensure that key themes are fully understood.
- Will liaise with the Headteacher to identify themes, ensuring that quality materials are available to support delivery.
- Will liaise with the Headteacher to support colleagues on the delivery of collective worship, identifying training needs where required.
- Will monitor the effectiveness of acts of worship and evaluate their impact.
- Will ensure all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond collective worship.

Class Teachers

- Will plan and lead collective worship within their classes once per week.
- Will ensure that they follow the termly plan as arranged by the Co-ordinator.
- Will follow a recommended format to ensure that collective worship is consistently delivered to a high standard.
- Will give pupils the opportunity to actively participate in class collective worship.

Incumbent

- Will ensure that collective worship is consistent with the school's trust deed.
- Will monitor the quality of collective worship.
- Will provide support to the Headteacher and co-ordinator in deciding the content and materials for collective worship.
- Will regularly lead an act of worship.

Visitors (must be approved by the Headteacher)

- Will ensure that they have read the school's collective worship policy.
- Will, wherever possible, link their worship to one of the themes that are running in school.
- Will understand that there will be some element of Christian worship even if they are not presenting this themselves.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

We will endeavour to provide joint learning opportunities with other local church schools so that we can discuss and learn from each other.

Monitoring and evaluation

A record of all the planned collective worship themes and ideas is kept; these are posted on the school portal, they are also sent to any supporting members of St Michael and All Angels Parish Church

Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of collective worship is done through staff development meetings, pupil voice surveys and feedback from parents. The incumbent who is also a member of the governing body liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Appendix A – Observation and monitoring record.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Date of last review:

Headteacher signed:

Date: 15th July 2024

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: 15th July 2024

Appendix A – Observation and Monitoring Record

Collective Worship Monitoring Record

What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?

In what ways and to what extent is Collective Worship inclusive, invitational and inspiring?

In what ways and to what extent is Collective Worship an expression of the schools' Christian vision?

Date/time	Leader Joined by:	Theme/Bible link
How was it inclusive? For pupils, staff, those of other or no faith, SEN, EAL	How was it inspiring? Variety of creative experiences used to encounter God (liturgy, music, drama, deep wondering questions, stillness, prayer, reflection.	How was it invitational? Opportunities for pupils to take part without compulsion
GATHERING Is the room and the leader ready to welcome pupils and staff? Did the greeting make everyone feel welcome? Was use made of Anglican liturgy?		
ENGAGING How was the theme shared? What strategies were used to make it inspiring, inclusive, and invitational? Were there opportunities to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and its relevance to today's world? Were there opportunities to become aware of different traditions and styles within the worldwide Anglican Church?		
RESPONDING How was singing, prayer, reflection and stillness used? what strategies were used to help pupils respond? How did worship inspire action?		
SENDING How were prepared to leave? Was the key message understood by all?		

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Reflect upon the impact of the act of Collective Worship on the school community.

Reflect upon the views of pupils to the act of Collective Worship.
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Reflect upon the extent to which the act of Collective Worship was inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Reflect upon the ways in which and to what extent the act of Collective Worship is an expression of the schools' Christian vision and values.

Reflect upon any action to be taken following the Collective Worship Observation.
