



Burbage C of E Infant School



Collective Worship Policy

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Chair of Governors:

Signed:

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1. Introduction

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship, in accordance with provisions of the school/academy Standards and Framework Act, 1998. Our programmes and practices for worship are developed in partnership with our parish church and trustees, St Catherine's Church, Burbage, and incorporate a range of elements of Anglican worship, developed appropriately for the age of our children. This policy is an update to the 2019 policy which was prepared by the governing body's Vision and Values Committee, Headteacher, teacher co-ordinating Collective Worship and the incumbent.

2. Aims

We aim to provide Collective Worship that provides pupils with the opportunity to:

- worship that which is considered worthy;
- consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- develop their spirituality;
- explore the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity;
- participate and respond;
- promote a common ethos and shared values;
- give children from other faiths and background an opportunity to share their own beliefs;
- help pupils develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others;
- promote respect, tolerance and understanding for those with differing beliefs and backgrounds.

3. What is Collective Worship

Christian worship is an honouring of God. It acknowledges His transcendence and Holiness, His 'worth' and 'value'; it is a loving response to His nature as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship stems from personal experience; it is a central characteristic of faith communities which are in relationship with God.

We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in the school situation 'the most' we can do is lead people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish.

Collective Worship only takes place in schools and academies. It is a term which is used only in education, whereas churches and religions usually think of their worship as being corporate. The implication of this is that when a group of people with shared beliefs gather together with the intention of sharing worship then this is a corporate activity. No such assumptions about shared beliefs can be made in the case of a school community, even in a church school. Burbage C of E Infant School is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds and who happen to be together primarily for the purpose of education, not for worship. The family backgrounds of pupils may be very different in terms of beliefs and adherence to religion, from the atheist, secular humanist to a devout background of a faith, either Christian or another world religion.

Where parents have choice about which school their child attends, this is often limited by geographical factors and the church school still cannot claim the right to use school Collective Worship as an act of corporate worship. What takes place in Collective Worship must take account of the varied backgrounds of the pupils and staff, as well as their ages and aptitudes.

In Collective Worship children and adults will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels; some will be passive observers, learning about worship but not participating in it; some will be "at the threshold", interested in the process and participating in it but not full believers; for others the act of Collective Worship may be a time of real worship of God. It is the task of Collective Worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

4. Planning acts of Collective Worship

Burbage C of E Infants adopts a values-based approach to Collective Worship, where twelve main Christian values are explored in depth on a two year rolling programme. These are generosity, **compassion**, courage, forgiveness, **friendship**, **respect**, thankfulness, trust, **perseverance**, justice, service, and **truth**. The five values expressed in bold are our five school values

and additionally these are embedded further throughout all aspects of the school, including within our curriculum and our Behaviour and Discipline Policy. The basis of our Collective Worship follows the scheme *Roots and Fruits* (Shahne Vickery, Imaginor, 2014). Detailed weekly plans are developed, and worship the following routine is used: Welcome, Learning, Reflection, Response. All acts of Collective Worship include prayers and songs. Increasingly, in partnership with our incumbent, we are incorporating elements of Anglican worship used in our parish church, St Catherine's, such as greetings, collects and psalms, the peace, blessings and dismissals.

Our parish incumbent and other members of the St Catherine's team regularly lead Collective Worship at school and we visit St Catherine's to worship at least termly.

5. Organisation of Collective Worship in school

Monday - led by the Executive Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher (Roots and Fruits theme)

Tuesday - led by teacher (Roots and Fruits theme or Christian values)

Wednesday – usually led by Year 2 worship group or the 'Open the Book team' from St Catherine's

Thursday – The Big Story led by our Family and Schools Support Worker from St Catherine's

Friday - Good News Worship where children's achievements are celebrated.

Parents and families are also invited to our Harvest services, Christmas and Easter celebrations and new starters/leavers' celebrations. Many of these take place in the parish church.

6. Management of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned by our Deputy Headteacher. Regular meetings take place with our School Liaison Officer at St Catherine's and other staff members to plan for the term, and to further develop practice.

7. Parents' right to withdraw children from Collective Worship

Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join the daily act of Collective Worship, even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief (Circular 1/94). Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from all or some Collective Worship (Circular 1/94). Parents are informed that as a Church school we have a distinctively Christian approach to Collective Worship, and of their right to withdraw from this through the school prospectus (Page 22), during tours for prospective parents, and at Parents' Induction Meeting prior to children starting school. Where a parent requests this, the school first meets with them to fully explain the

elements of Collective Worship, so that children can be included as far as possible in any acceptable elements.

8. Monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is monitored by governors at Burbage C of E Infant School through the following mechanisms:

- Annual Christian Distinctiveness Audit, which evaluates all elements of Christian Distinctiveness against the SIAMS Framework;
- Regular governor attendance at Collective Worship;
- Vision and Values Committee meetings;
- Visits by the incumbent and other foundation governors;
- Monitoring of the Christian Distinctiveness section within the School Development Plan.

Collective Worship is mainly evaluated and developed through the Vision and Values Committee meetings, and this evaluation is used to inform the School Development Plan.