ST BRIDGET'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27

Approved by:	SLT and Governors	**Date:**	September 2017
Last reviewed on:	June 2021		
Next review due by:	September 2022		

CRC Links

Article 2 (Non-discrimination)**:** All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3 (Best interests of the child)**:** All adults should do what is best for the children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 12(Respect for the views of the child)**:** Children have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 15 (Freedom of association)**:** Children have the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 19 (Respect for the views of the child): Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 29 (Goals of education)**:** Children's education should help them use and develop their talents and abilities. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30 (Children of minorities/indigenous groups)**:** Children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion - or any they choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been prepared by the Governors' Christian Ethos Committee and headteacher with assistance from the teacher coordinating collective worship. Diocesan guidelines for collective worship have been referred to.

THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

The parents' legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship is clearly laid out in the school prospectus where it states, "School has devised a scheme of work for RE using both the Local Authority Agreed Syllabus and the Chester Diocesan Guidelines. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship once they have notified the Head Teacher". If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At St Bridget's C of E Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and that others of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

Our central aims of collective worship (as detailed in the Diocesan guidelines) are to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal understanding about Jesus Christ.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those 'of faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit by acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character, and giving Him praise and honour.
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend and participate in worship.
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- raise awareness through reflection on the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- reaffirm, strengthen and practise key Christian values, (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) many of which form our own school values. Celebrating each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God.
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised be feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence.
- develop a sense of community within the school (and with St Bridget's church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community though the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions.
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- experience forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- engage with a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- take place in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT ST BRIDGET'S

Whole school collective worship takes place three days a week in the format of:

- an assembly to start the week led by the headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team,
- hymn practice
- a celebration assembly. This assembly celebrates pupil achievements based upon of school values and is shared with parents of those children receiving merit certificates and badges.

Key Stage assemblies take place on a Wednesday. These are led alternately by members of the clergy and the Key Stage Staff.

On Thursdays, children take part in year group collective worship, where achievements within the year group are celebrated in addition to the children participating in discussions that are appropriate for their age.

In addition to formalised collective worship, there are also specific points in the day where all stakeholders pray. These are:

- Grace before lunch,
- closing prayer at the end of the day
- we are developing the use of the RRS school prayer every morning, as this was suggested by the children of the RRS Christian Ethos Sub-Committee.

N.B: All school specific prayers can be located in the appendix.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

MONITORING

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the worship co-ordinator, along with the Christian Ethos Committee. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, clergy and visitors

- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship.

EVALUATION
The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the headteacher and the Christian Ethos Committee will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the school improvement plan and collective worship action plan.

INCLUSION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

The following extracts from our schools, 'Inclusion and Equal Opportunities Policy 'are relevant to collective worship:

a) All pupils to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
b) All members of the school community to undertake roles and responsibilities on the basis of aptitude and/or equitableness, rather than on stereotypical perceptions of suitability.
c) All members of the school community to treat each other with respect and in a non-discriminatory fashion.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At St Bridget's C of E Primary School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator. She plans themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship.

CONCLUSION

At St Bridget's C of E Primary School, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at St Bridget's C of E Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

REVIEW

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *three* years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

Worship Co-ordinators – Miss Smith and Mrs Inglis
Governor responsible for collective worship – Rev Alex

APPENDIX

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

Oh Lord,
Bless our school.
That working together
And praying together,
We may serve you,
And serve one another.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL PRAYER

Oh Lord,
Bless our Rights Respecting School.
That working together for human beings in need,
And praying together for all children's rights,
We may continue to serve you,
And serve one another within our Global Community,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

GRACE – BEFORE LUNCH

For food and fun and friendship,
Lord we give you thanks.
For health and strength and daily food,
Lord we give you thanks.
Amen.

HOMETIME PRAYER

Lord,
Keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears,
May angels guard us while we sleep,
'Til morning light appears.
Amen.