



Belonging, Believing; Together Succeeding

Policy: **Collective Worship**

Date Reviewed by Staff:	January 2024
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Barrington Church of England School Collective Worship Policy

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our vision, is to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a lifelong love of learning, respect for themselves, others and the environment so that they will have the skills, resilience and adaptability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Bible verse that sets our vision in context comes from the words of Jesus: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10. It is this flourishing in the love and grace of God that will enable our children to be wise, hopeful, and live well together with dignity and respect in God's world.

'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.

The **Christian values** underpinning our school practice and chosen by the whole school community are:

- Love
- Compassion
- Perseverance
- Responsibility

Policy Statement

In Barrington 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.

In our 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.

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*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils. 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 in Barrington Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the 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.

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Barrington aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Develop the children’s learning of God's love for all of us
- 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.

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- 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.
- Encourage participation and response;
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Teach children how to worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer, the candle lighting prayer and the school prayer.
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine, candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.
The Lord be with you / *And also with you*
This is the day that the Lord has made/*Let us rejoice and be glad in it*
Peace be with you/ *and also with you*
- *Amen*
- Learn about Christians celebrating the Eucharist
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

Organisation of collective worship

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, ensuring that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs, giving time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Whatever the approaches to worship, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, unity in trinity

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- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who through his life, death and resurrection broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God; the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- the Holy Spirit as the power of God available to help us to become more like Jesus
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the church's year

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditional values of the Christian faith and reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We will also include teaching about other faith festivals. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship will reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Inclusivity

In our school we have children of all faiths and none, who have elected to come to collective worship. Our school values are explained to parents of other faiths. Payer is always invitational but all children are expected to sit quietly and respectfully during these times.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

How Collective worship is organised

Termly Planning

Collective worship is planned termly by a planning team of the head teacher, Rev Felicity and the head teacher from Petersfield Primary. Music that supports the focus of the collective worship planned is then added to the planning by the schools' music coordinator.

The planning has a focus for each half term which will be either a Christian value, the events in the church calendar or narratives from the bible.

Leadership

- Who leads daily worship e.g. the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. GenR8

Organisation

Over the course of the school week the children experience a range:

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- Whole school worship led by the head or local vicar
- Choral worship led by the school's music coordinator
- Class worship where themes from whole school sessions can be explored at a more age appropriate level
- Whole school collective worship is usually held in the hall; the atmosphere for worship is created using:
Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, and the collective worship table and display as a focal point,
Ritual and liturgical responses,
In addition to this we also have an outdoor space; the sensory spiritual garden, and use the local church for harvest and end of term services.
- Collective worship is held at the end of each school day between 2.55 and 3.20

Monitoring and review

The school's foundation governors have a role in the monitoring for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.