



Collective Worship Policy

St Barnabas CofE Primary School

Approved by: LGB

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This policy supersedes all previous Collective Worship policies.



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*“Through Jesus we encourage one another and build each other up,
to be our best selves”*

1. Introduction

Saint Barnabas is a Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'

In Church of England schools, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

Collective worship contributes to the Church of England Vision for Education of human flourishing, enabling all pupils and adults to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10), developing wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

Collective Worship is a statutory requirement for all schools in England and Wales but at St Barnabas Primary collective worship is much more than this. For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we come together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. It is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily school life and gives us a space to encounter faith and explore our relationship with God. It gives us the opportunity to reflect and ponder bigger questions. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a school family and enjoy a time that is special. It helps shape who we are as individuals and a school. It is an important time to reaffirm our vision and values.

Collective worship makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual development by creating space for reflection, stillness, prayer, questioning and encounters with faith.

2. Our Vision

Inspired through Jesus



We are inspired by the transformational impact Jesus had on others and the hope he brings. Inspired through Jesus, we share hope and encouragement as Barnabas "son of encouragement" did (Acts 4:36) and through Paul's message (1 Thessalonians 5:11) to "encourage each other and build each other up" and flourish by being our best selves.

3. Aims

The Aims of Worship:

- To explore our school's ethos, vision and values in a meaningful and impactful way that inspires people to live well and make a positive change to be their best selves.
- To provide opportunities for the whole school to meet and engage and build a sense of family identity and, if they feel called, respond in praise.
- To encounter Jesus Christ and his teachings, the Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances lives.
- To develop the children's spiritual understanding and offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.
- To provide experiences for all children and develop understanding of different faiths.
- To encourage a sense of personal, social, and moral responsibility
- To develop opportunities for children to understand how they can be the positive change they want to see.
- To involve all children of different (or no) religious belief in celebrating their personal worth.
- To evoke a sense of awe and wonder.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To celebrate the life of the Church.

4. Intention

Invitational - In acts of Collective Worship at our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore, the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces. We intend for our collective worship to be warmly welcoming with opportunity for individuals to decide their level of participation. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inclusive – we ensure that we include themes that are relevant to all and may include news items or big issues such as climate change, bullying. Although our worship is centred on the Christian faith and the life and teaching of Jesus and reflects Anglican tradition, we also seek to be fully inclusive by representing other faiths and beliefs. It is an opportunity to explore our values and their strong links to the bible and the teaching of Jesus but also through other stories and examples. Pupils are given the opportunity to partake and respond or sit back and consider. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning,

leading and the evaluation of worship. Evaluation findings are used to inform future planning and ensure collective worship continues to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Inspiring – we aim for our worship to be inspirational. We hope to ask challenging questions and help pupils and adults explore themselves and their place in our school and the world. Our vision is inspired by the transformational impact of Jesus and the hope he brings to be encouragers and our best selves. We want to inspire others to make positive changes and live well together through the teachings of Jesus. We want to inspire all through stories, examples of leadership and help children understand how they can be leaders and make a positive difference through their actions and voice. We want to help them to think differently, and to reflect on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

5. Calendar

The worship calendar will be related to the school's worship themes, school vision, Christian values or to the Christian calendar.

- Links to other world religions and cultures will also be made at different points in the year
- We include Old and New Testament stories, Jesus' life and teachings along with seasonal worship such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- There are opportunities each Friday to celebrate the achievements of our children within the life of the school or in the wider world and how they are promoting our school Christian Values.

The half term focus for collective worship is on display around school. The Bible verse which is chosen half-termly alongside the half termly theme is also displayed.

6. Content

As we are an Anglican school, we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching and give it a prominent place in our worship with a significant focus on the teachings of Jesus.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- The colour of the church year is displayed as table runners on our special collective worship table in the hall and within individual classes' prayer corners.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians.
- Anglican prayers we use include The Lord's Prayer and we also end some Collective Worship sessions with the school prayer.
- Anglican hymns are regularly included in our choral worship and include both well-known seasonal hymns. Our worship usually follows a liturgical pattern e.g. Gathering, engaging, responding, sending and always includes a time of reflection,

and prayer. Words of greeting and sending are used by pupils and staff to open and end collective worship.

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

- Story
- Music
- PowerPoint images
- Poetry
- Drama
- Games
- Dance
- Questioning
- Singing
- Praying
- Peace and times of meditation and silence.
- Reflection

7. Delivery

- Setting the mood and creating the right atmosphere for Collective Worship is important.
- Reflective music or songs are played while the children enter and leave. There is always a three-wick candle or three candles which are lit at the beginning of Collective Worship as a symbol of the trinity and to act as a focus for the children.
- Words of welcome are used to welcome all and set the tone.
- Reading bible stories and quotes are an integral part of the stimuli used in worship to reinforce the main point or theme of the worship.
- Where relevant, reference is made to faith symbols and artefacts and in particular Anglican symbols. There is also a focus table (to include a cross, bible and candle) which reflects the fact that St Barnabas is an Anglican Church school. We encourage the children to be interactive and make responses during Collective Worship.
- Whole school Collective Worship will take place daily in the school hall and follows the half term rota and schedule.
- Opportunity for reflections and smaller group work take place during class collective worship time.

To ensure worship is inclusive we:

- Give the children the opportunity to reflect rather than pray.
- Include prayers from other faiths represented at our school.
- Include celebrations for world faiths
- Make links between all faiths
- Including inspiring songs not based in faith

We encourage adults and children to keep our themes, questions and learning from collective worship alive all week. We do this by:

- Sharing reflection class time to allow children to explore ideas and ask questions in a smaller group.
- Set challenges for children to participate in such as kindness challenges.
- Post prayers and focus online and in the newsletter.
- Leave classes with big questions, stories, or art to explore

8. Leadership

Collective worship is led by school staff, St Barnabas church team or church teams who are part of churches together. Visitors will be invited to deliver part of collective worship if they enhance the message or impact of collective worship. These might be charity groups, drama groups, choirs or invited guests.

9. Our Church

Saint Barnabas School has a close relationship with Saint Barnabas Church, not only do the church team support the planning of collective worship but they also regularly lead collective worship at school, and we attend church services. Parents and carers are invited to attend service in that their child's year group is leading.

We celebrate the following at Saint Barnabas Church:

- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Day
- Christmas Service
- Easter Service
- St Barnabas Day
- Leavers' Service

10. Pupil Leadership

The Ethos committee are regularly involved in leading collective worship and prayers. They evaluate collective worship and plan and deliver collective worship.

Planning - children will:

- Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship.
- Help the ethos leader plan collective worship

Set up – children will:

- Help set up the hall and worship table
- Greet pupils at the door and help set the atmosphere of collective worship

Worship - children will:

- Take part in Drama activities
- Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Read or saying prayers.
- Leading actions or signing to songs.

Gathering - children will:

- Say a welcoming sentence.
- Say the words of the trinity

Sending - children will:

- Switch off the candles.
- Saying the words of sending

Leaving - children will:

- Hold doors open for those leaving.
- Put away equipment and chairs.
- Turn off candles.

Responding/recording

- Children regularly have time to revisit key messages and values in class
- Children share their responses to collective worship in worship through the whole school log through the whole school logbook their learning, reflections, and prayers from collective worship
- They will also record their responses regularly in their class QQR book

Evaluating - children will:

- Regularly evaluate collective worship
- Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship.
- Share evaluation findings with the Church team and school SLT

11. Monitoring

Monitoring collective worship will be done jointly by the head teacher, the worship coordinator, and key stakeholders **including governors.**

Strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- observing practice
- 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, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school

12. Evaluation

Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- There is a rota for evaluation and reflection by one class per week who complete a section in our 'Reflection Log'
- Observation of children's reactions and participation during worship
- Pupil voice
- Teacher reflection

13. Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached directly. 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.