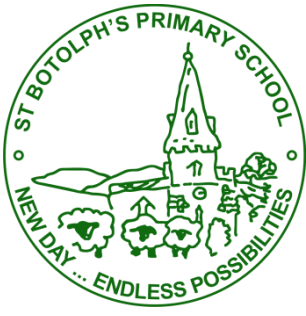


Policy:	<b>Collective Worship</b> December 2017	
Status:	Non-statutory	
Review Date:	3 yearly–December 2023	

### **Introduction:**

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of St. Botolph's C of E Primary School, valuing all children equally.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values, which are set out, clearly, in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

### **RATIONALE – LEGAL**

- The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable, but the legal requirement in Anglican Schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

### **RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL**

Collective Worship:-

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent.
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship.
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**

We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at St. Botolph's C of E Primary School.

Collective Worship should:-

- have a sense of occasion.
- provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish.
- be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)
- provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils' experience of its different forms.
- recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material.
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- develop a sense of community within the school.
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

**The Governing Body** is responsible for ensuring that:-

- the Foundation of the school is honored and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.

- an appropriate inspector to carries out the Section 23 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

**The Collective Worship Co-ordinator** has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

**Monitoring and evaluating** Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place by the appointed date.

## **ORGANISATION**

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the School Hall. Class assembly takes place in individual classrooms. Five Acts of Worship take place each week following a planned theme. The themes are planned by the Co-ordinator and reflect the needs of the school, school development plan the church calander. The structure of assemblies includes some of the following; music, a song of praise, a story or talk, a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection, a prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and a reminder each day of the theme for the week.

Weekly Collective Worship includes one each of the following:

- Whole School Well Done Assembly
- Key Stage Act of Worship
- Key Stage music assembly and Act of Worship
- Key Stage Visitors assembly
- Class assembly

Parents are encouraged to attend their child's performance assemblies and Golden stars assembly

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship at times. Clergy from St Botolph's come in twice a term.

Class teachers attend Acts of Worship with their class.

## **ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP:**

**Atmosphere** is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation.

**Music** is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week. Pupils' attention is drawn to it and a simple explanation/ description may be given.

**Stories and talks** are carefully chosen to fulfill the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

**Songs** are chosen from a wide variety of sources. One is used at each assembly, relative to the theme. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the overhead projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

**Prayer and reflection** are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and the school prayer may be used. A candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader, in order to concentrate pupils' response.

**Scripture** sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

**Presentation** sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama and demonstration.

## **CONTENT**

**Planning** for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education and Collective Worship. Plans and schedules are approved by the Head and ratified by the Governing Body. Suggestions and requests from staff are welcomed, whilst input and guidance from the incumbent on the selection of themes is valued. The co-ordinator collaborates with other members of staff to discuss themed music and hymns.

### **Themes.**

They may:-

- have a specific religious base such as 'Jesus Light of the World' or 'Easter'
- reflect a theme common to all religions such as 'prayer', or 'caring for others'
- be concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'Valuing the Earth.'
- Themes that reflect the needs of the school
- Be our core school values

Themes are closely related to the school community.

**Links with R.E. and the Curriculum** are incorporated wherever possible. Common themes link R.E. and Collective Worship. The apt choice of story can link worship with current topic work e.g. 'Caring' = 'Florence Nightingale' = 'Victorians'. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

**N.B.** No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important, spiritually, to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

## **RESOURCES**

Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.

Selection of religious artefacts

Selection of assembly topic books for teachers

Selection of assembly song books

Worship box

Assembly websites

Piano/Instruments/CD player

Candle and table,

Cracking R.E.

Primary Assembly File

## **RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT**

Act of Worship themes are circulated to all teachers and displayed in the Hall and Staffroom next to the rota.

Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher/Deputy and the Designated Governor for Collective Worship through:-

- checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- observation of childrens' attentiveness and level of interest.
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- self-evaluation /comment by the teacher, on the daily planning sheet.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

In the teaching and learning of Collective Worship, all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. Every individual has the right to equal opportunities regardless of their gender, ethnicity or physical/mental ability. We ensure the individual is educated in an environment where she/he feels respected and valued :- ensuring equal access to equipment; delivering a curriculum free from stereotyped ideas; not using sexist or racist language and having equally high expectations of children regardless of their gender.

The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

## **MULTICULTURALISM**

A variety of multicultural resources are available throughout the school. Stories are shared and the major faith religious festivals celebrated. Tolerance and understanding of other religions and their cultures is encouraged and the programs of study followed in R.E. e.g. Hindus, Jews, Sikhs and Muslims

## **ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR**

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the governing body.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year.
- To draw up assembly rotas.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is included in the School Development Plan.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To arrange INSET for staff.
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship.

**REVIEW**

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, three years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St. Botolph's C of E Primary School. It will be reviewed, by the Governors, the Head Teacher/Collective Worship Co-ordinator in conjunction with all staff.