

Bishop Carpenter C of E Aided Primary School

*Through a Christian environment, to nurture learners who are **Competent, Confident and Caring.***

Collective Worship Policy



Our Vision

We believe that all individuals need time for reflection, the opportunity to engage with the world and one another.

Legal requirements

The school's daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. In accordance with legal requirements, an act of collective worship which takes into account the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily as the main part of an assembly. As a Church of England Aided School, it is expected that parents will want their children to participate fully in collective worship, but by law they have the right to withdraw their children. Parents who are considering withdrawing children from collective worship are encouraged to discuss this decision with the headteacher.

What is Collective worship?

Collective worship is understood to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. It also provides an opportunity for reflection. Worship involves all members of the school coming together: worship on special occasions is enhanced when all members of the school community can join together in prayer and thinking.

In general, worship is based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian church, with sensitivity to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Stories of faiths other than Christianity are used where appropriate.

What should Collective Worship be like?

Collective worship can be based in class, key stage, whole-school or take the form of family services. It might take place in the morning or in the afternoon, indoors or out. It should be appropriate for the range of ages, abilities and backgrounds of the children and should embrace different cultures and take into account different learning styles.

Collective worship is conducted in a respectful way. It will usually include a period of calm reflection, but there may be times of joyful and noisy celebration, and times of silent contemplation. Music will often be used to create an appropriate atmosphere. Three candles will usually provide a focal point as well as reference to The Trinity. Our worship table is draped in liturgical colours which follow the church year.

Reviewed December 2016. Due for Review December 2019.

Why do we have Collective Worship?

Collective Worship offers an opportunity to worship God, promote Christian values and give a time to explore our own spirituality. It provides the opportunity for pupils to reflect upon fundamental aspects of life and those things which are of concern and value to human beings. We are able to celebrate beliefs, values and ideals and develop a community spirit, in an environment where we are equally valued. When appropriate we will ask the pupils to respond and contribute.

Who should plan and lead the worship?

Lots of people! Worship might be planned and led by pupils, teachers, other staff, parents, carers, governors, the local clergy or by visitors to the school.

The themes for collective worship focus on a Christian value every term supporting the school's Vision, Values and Behaviours Statement (shared with the children as our 3Cs - Confident, Competent and Caring). They might reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar or current issues and events, but will always include reference to Christian values. Collective worship is planned as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day it takes place.

Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher and governors (the SIAMs committee) have responsibility for the management of Collective Worship, and ensuring that it is delivered as outlined in this policy. The Collective Worship coordinator is responsible for this medium term planning.

Evaluation

Various activities feed into the evaluation of Collective Worship: discussion with groups of children (including the school council), questionnaires, observations of acts of collective worship by staff/governors/parents/carers and feedback from staff.