

# Batheaston Church School

Bath and Wells MAT, School Lane, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, BA1 7EP

*"That they may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10*

Dream...Aspire...Achieve



## Collective Worship Policy



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Date Approved by Governing Body: February 2021

Date to be reviewed: February 2022

## **Collective Worship Policy.**

### **Vision**

‘Dream, Aspire, Achieve’.

At Batheaston we believe that collective worship and sharing time together is a crucial part of our broader school life. Every day, every class will be involved in some form of collective worship. These acts of collective worship, based on Christian themes, will reflect the vision and values of our school, as well as the traditions and culture of our country. They will almost always include time for reflection which will support the children to understand their own values, their own thoughts and their own behaviours.

‘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.

### **Legal Requirements**

There is a daily act of collective worship in our school. Collective worship is in accordance with the practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, Worship in Batheaston Church School is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

### **Responsibility of the Governing Body**

The governing body 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.

### **Policy Statement**

In Batheaston Church 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.

At Batheaston Church School collective worship aims to be inspirational 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 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. 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<sup>1</sup>*) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

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## Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Batheaston Church School aims to:

- Underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- Demonstrate Anglican practices through the use of colour and the Church of England's seasons of worship.
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- encourage a care and concern for others in society and the natural world;
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- Promote a Global understanding of Christianity
- Celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey
- 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.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- 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.
- A range and variety of materials are used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Offer opportunities to all children so that pupils are at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship
- 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.
- Subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children.
- The school's Church Foundation is reflected by the central position of a cross, a candle and a Bible
- Themes are developed effectively on a half-termly basis and Collective Worship is carefully planned
- Links with St John's Church are maintained and strengthened.
- Offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- Children and adults take away something to think about and take into their daily life within school and the community.
- The Collective Worship Lead liaises with the Youth Church worker to discuss the termly themes. The Youth Church Worker is provided with termly plans
- Collective worship taking place in the church is open to parents, who are encouraged to attend.

## The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day. However, it should be remembered that:

- Collective Worship can take place at any time and in any groupings
- Worship can take place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church or church hall
- Collective Worship should be for around 20 minutes daily

## Timetable for Collective Worship

**Monday** - Whole school assembly taken by the Headteacher. Story of religious/values based substance, prayer and quiet reflection time. Linked to the RECIPE values

**Tuesday** – Key Stage assembly, led by teaching staff on a rota basis. Using ‘Values 4 Life’ resource. This includes a story, prayer and worship song.

**Wednesday** – KS1 & KS2 Collective Worship. Led by the Youth Church Worker. KS1 participate in ‘Open the book’ and the Youth Church worker leads a Collective Worship for KS2. The latter includes a story, prayer and worship song.

**Thursday** - Singing assembly. Songs, including traditional hymns as well as secular songs. songs relate to the termly value or the focus festival. Fortnightly, two classes are involved with singing practice at St John’s Church, led by the Choir master.

**Friday** - Sharing assembly, led by the Headteacher. The whole school gathers and sings a song or hymn related to the theme or focus festival. Teachers share the Teacher Award winners and other whole-school awards presented, e.g. Tidiest Class Cup, winning Housepoint team. Assembly closes with a reflection and/or prayer based on the Teacher Award or any local/national news or event if relevant.

## Planning

- Collective worship is based around the 18 Christian values identified in the Values 4 Life resource. We will focus on one theme each term on a three year rolling programme.
- Each theme will be developed across the term and will run as a central strand through almost all collective worship opportunities.
- This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that we may feel that we need to respond to local or national events. Collective Worship is planned and resourced by the RE/CW lead.
- The Ethos committee group members and individual pupils review and evaluate Acts of Collective Worship using a CW reflection sheet. Collective Worship planning can be adapted in response to pupils’ reflections
- We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The Ethos Committee help plan and lead acts of worship.
  
- Each term will also include a ‘focus festival’ based largely on the key markers of the Church year. A related service in St John’s Church will be the highlight of this focus, but some in-school assemblies will also follow the festival theme.

## Focus festival: Organisation

**Term 1:** Harvest

**Term 2:** Advent

**Term 3:** Epiphany

**Term 4:** Holy Week (Palm Sunday or Easter, depending on term dates)

**Term 5:** Pentecost

**Term 6:** Leavers' Service

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Reflection sheets are carried out by individual pupils in each KS2 class. Worship can also be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

### **Monitoring of Collective Worship**

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis. The governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. We use the BWMAT self-evaluation proforma developed by the RE steering group.

### **The right of withdrawal**

In Batheaston Church School there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school

- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

*(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

### **Associated Policies:**

RE

PSHE

SMSC

Behaviour

Child Protection

SEND/Inclusion

Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

### **Other Useful Documents:** (can be found on the diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading Collective Worship, including a code of conduct
- Example Visitors Leaflet about Collective Worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?