



'Spurring each other on with love'

Collective Worship Policy

2025-2026

ANNUAL

POLICY HISTORY (starting with the new cycle started in 2011)

Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Governor adoption Date	Signed by the Chair	Next Review Date
1	Policy written by KF Reviewed by Ethos Committee on 8/10/19	8 th October 2019		Autumn Term 2020
2	Update to reflect right to withdraw procedures	18/6/20		Autumn Term 2020
3	Reviewed by KF	24/9/20		Autumn Term 2021
4	Reviewed by KF and updated to reflect the 2021 Church of England's 2021 guidance on Collective Worship	30/9/21		Autumn 2022
5	Reviewed by KF			Autumn 2023
6	Reviewed by KF	06.11.2023		Autumn 2024
7	Reviewed by KF	21/11/2024	Laura Bates	Autumn 2025
8	Reviewed by KF Update on reflection time in Collective	13/11/25		

	Worship and an edit to the withdrawal from worship procedure, firming up the need for a meeting before withdrawal from this time is made.			
--	--	--	--	--

Bickleigh Down C of E Primary School

Collective Worship

*And let us consider how we may spur each other on towards love and good deeds.
(Hebrews 10:24)*

Spurring each other on with love.

Rationale

Collective Worship is a statutory requirement for all schools in England and Wales. At Bickleigh Down C of E Primary School, Collective Worship is so much more than this. It is the heartbeat of our school, a time where the school family meets together, learns together, reflects together, a time within which children and staff are given a time to be still, to engage and if they feel called, respond.

The Aims of Worship:

- To provide opportunities for the whole school to meet, engage and, if they feel called, respond in praise.
- To develop the children's spiritual understanding
- To develop the children's understanding of the Christian faith
- To provide experiences for all children and understanding of different faiths and cultures
- To explore the school's Christian ethos
- To share and experience cultural differences.
- To encourage a sense of personal, social and moral responsibility
- To develop opportunities to share and be courageous advocates
- To build a sense of school family identity
- To discuss and understand the different worldviews that our school community as a whole hold
- To involve all children of different (or no) religious belief in celebrating their personal worth.
- To allow children to reflect, express, affirm or challenge commonly accepted personal views and social values.
- To provide time for stillness, quiet and reflection.
- To evoke a sense of awe and wonder.
- To relate spiritual and moral values to the daily life of the school.
- To celebrate the life of the Church.

Guidelines

- The Church School Distinctiveness leader will arrange a rota of people to lead worship throughout the half term. The worship will be related to the school's worship themes, school vision, Christian values or to the Christian calendar. The planning provided by the Church School Distinctiveness Leader should be followed by those leading worship.
- There is a focus for each time of Collective Worship that is linked to our school Christian vision and associated values, which is maintained throughout the week or half term.
- Multi-Cultural stories and resources will be included in worship planning
- Links to other world religions and cultures will also be made at different points in the year
- Old and New Testament stories are included and seasonal worship such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- There will be two opportunities (Tuesday – KS1 and Wednesday KS2) 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. Within these 'Award Celebration' worship times, there will be an act of worship and reflection
- Music is selected by the child led worship team for the school community to enter and leave worship. This music encourages a reflective state of mind.
- A candle is lit to mark the time for prayer, reflection and stillness. The candle is blown out to reflect the end of worship
- Teachers leading worship will follow 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' approach that develops spiritual awareness and understanding.
- Children are invited to take a leading role in worship. The worship team are spurred on to welcome the school community, reflect on the time of worship and if they feel called, write a prayer to share with the school community.
- Children are encouraged to create, share and write their own prayers, placing them in their class reflection spaces. These prayers can be used in worship or prayed for by our local church.
- Our Spirit Detectives, children, staff and Governors will discuss and evaluate worship on a termly basis.
- All staff lead collective worship in our school and we actively encourage visitors to lead worship. Visitors who lead worship must be aware of the broadly Christian nature of our worship, which reflects the beliefs and traditions of the Church of England.

- All staff will receive regular training on leading worship and a prompt sheet explaining how to use the windows, mirrors and doors structure is available from the Church School leader.
- Questions, or meanings and purposes, concerning human nature are explored through story or reference to the lives of individuals whose lives have been significant.
- Faith, stories, and fictional stories with a moral message are used to explore aspects of human nature and behaviour.
- Teachers encourage children to reflect on the theme of time of worship when in class worship.
- Children are encouraged to take an active part in Collective Worship by responding to questions, offering solutions to problems by taking part in role play situations, or (if they feel called) by writing and reading prayers.
- Staff will ensure that there is a time of invitational prayer during the worship time but will also ensure that there is an alternative reflection for those children who do not feel called to pray.
- At Bickleigh Down, we endeavour to create, where possible, an inspiring atmosphere within our times of Collective Worship.
- A variety of locations are considered, i.e. the main hall, a classroom, St Cecilia's Church and the school grounds.
- All acts of Collective worship will follow the Church of England's Guidance (latest version 2021).
- Each time of Collective worship will feature a time of reflection and optional time of prayer; children will be invited to consider key questions (using WMD) to think about what they have heard and what it means to them.

The Lord's Prayer and The Grace

The children will be invited to join in school community prayer with the option of using the following versions of the Lord's Prayer and the Grace:

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come thy will be done,

On Earth as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and forever.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen

Organisation

There is a daily Act of Collective Worship which takes place in the morning. The children will meet as a whole school family, class families and Key Stage families. Worship themes are linked to the understanding of our school Christian vision, Christian values, religious festivals, key events, world issues and celebrations.

Resources for worship are stored in the PPA room and are on the school server. Music for worship is kept next to the music system in the school hall. All children and staff attend school worship. Parents may request that their child is withdrawn from worship (more information of this process can be found below) and the Headteacher will meet with parents to discuss their wishes.

Approach: "There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression."

The timetable for worship will be as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage 1	Whole School Worship	Awards	Key Stage Worship	Class Worship	Whole School Worship
Key Stage 2	Whole School Worship	Class Worship	Awards	Key Stage 2 Worship	Whole School Worship

Atmosphere

- Respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected.
- Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation.
- The special table, a cross, a Bible and a candle help to focus our time together.
- Music is played at the beginning and end of Collective Worship. Music should offer the children a time of reflection and stillness.

- Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of worship. Stories of a religious nature may be used.
- 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 traditional and modern hymns and choruses. At least one is used at each time of Collective Worship, relative to the theme and there is sometimes dance, actions or signing accompaniment provided by the children.
- Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words.
- Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. 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 may all be used. There is a daily opportunity for quiet reflection using the windows, mirrors and doors approach.

Children Leading Worship

At Bickleigh Down C of E Primary School children leading worship is a central part of what we do as a school. The children will be invited to have the following responsibilities:

Before Collective Worship	During Collective Worship	After Collective Worship
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Setting up</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selecting and setting up CD • Putting out chairs • Prepare the worship table • The children will ring the bell to call the school to worship. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gathering</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saying a welcoming sentence. • Organise school notices. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Clearing up</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold doors open for those leaving. • Put away equipment and chairs. • Turn off candles.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Welcoming</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet the other children at door • Meet visitors at main entrance (and help them to set up) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engaging</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a visitor or the storyteller • Take part in Drama activities such as Open the Book. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recording</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record a logbook detailing what the school had learnt about in Collective Worship. • Ask the visitor or the person leading worship to sign the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support teachers with music, video-clips and PowerPoint slides. 	logbook to say that it is a true representation of what they have learnt.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Planning</u></p> <p>The children will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose music and songs to be sung in worship that link to our theme. Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Responding</u></p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask and answer questions. Read or saying prayers. Leading actions or signing to songs. Take part in a reflection if they feel called. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Evaluating</u></p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Imaginor Evaluation grid. Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship. Share evaluation findings with Governors and school SLT.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sending</u></p> <p>The children will have the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switch off the candles. Saying the 'Grace' or other closing prayer 	

Children from different year groups will also be given the opportunity to lead worship if they feel called to acts of courageous advocacy. For example, sharing the important work that charities like 'Toilet Twinning' do and discussing what the school community could do to help them. The children will receive support from teaching staff to share their ideas and organise fund raising opportunities.

Evaluating Worship

Evaluation of worship is carried out by the Spirit Detectives, staff and Foundation Governors through: -

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- Observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest.
- Classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- Use of the Imaginor worship evaluation form (this is discussed with the Spirit Detectives and then actions are created).
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- The extent of the influence upon pupils' attitudes and behaviour throughout the school day.

Conclusion

Legal requirements. (Collective Worship - A Whole School Approach - D.C.C.) The Education Reform Act (1988) requires schools to provide a daily act of worship for all registered pupils.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.
- Collective worship is to be 'wholly or mainly Christian' and 'not to be distinctive of any denomination'. (ERA Section 7.1)
- Section 7.2 of the E.R.A. requires collective worship to be broadly Christian and, for this to be so, it should 'reflect the broad traditions of Christian Belief.'

The right to withdraw

Collective Worship at Bickleigh Down C of E Primary School is inclusive and planned to accommodate all children however parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If parents choose to withdraw their children from Collective Worship they may request a timetable with the school's worship times recorded, parents may either choose to withdraw their children from all sessions or select the ones that they would/would not want them to attend.

Any withdrawals from Collective Worship should be discussed with the Headteacher and the school's Church School Distinctiveness leader. A meeting should be held before a final decision is made and then notice of the withdrawal from Collective Worship must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

REVIEW: The Governing Body will review this policy on an annual basis.

EVALUATING WORSHIP

DATE OF WORSHIP

NAMES OF WORSHIP LEADERS

WELCOME

How well did the leaders create a special **welcoming** space for worship and how did they do this? And did you feel prepared and ready for the time of worship? Why?



LEARNING

What was the main thing that you learnt through the act of worship and how did the leaders help you to do this?



REFLECTING

Did the act of worship help you reflect on (think about) something in a new way? If so, how?



RESPONDING

Do you feel that you have been inspired, or challenged to do something different as a result of the time of worship? Can you describe your response? And how did the leaders of worship help everyone to pray? What made this a special part of the worship time?



And finally.... are there any suggestions that you could make that would help the worship leaders about any of the four elements of worship?