

Collective Worship



‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Luke 10:27

updated July 2023

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CRC Links

Article 2 (Non-discrimination): All children have these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, what their religion is, whether they are a boy or girl, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

Article 3 (Best interests of the child): All adults should do what is best for the children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 12(Respect for the views of the child): Children have the right to give their opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

Article 15 (Freedom of association): Children have the right to choose their own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it isn't harmful to others.

Article 19 (Respect for the views of the child): Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 29 (Goals of education): Children's education should help them use and develop their talents and abilities. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 30 (Children of minorities/indigenous groups): Children have the right to practice their own culture, language and religion - or any they choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

St Bridget's Church of England Primary School

Mission Statement:

Love Your Neighbour as Yourself

Our school will provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement in a safe environment where all pupils and staff will feel emotionally and physically secure. We aspire to be a community of “global citizens” which seeks to cherish the earth and support all people locally, nationally and globally through raising awareness, campaigning and simple acts of kindness.

Faith, Hope and Love, and the greatest is love. 1 Corinthians 13 :13

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been prepared by Nadine Smith (Christian Ethos Lead) and Reverend Alex Williams (Incumbent, Chair of Christian Ethos and Foundation Governor).

At St Bridget's worship is central to the life of our school. 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.

It is our intention that collective worship is inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP?

In Church of England schools, Collective Worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder moment'. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief¹

At St Bridget's, Collective Worship involves prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament, quiet and stillness, music and art, celebration, thanksgiving and self-reflection.

We recognise that at St Bridget's the community we serve is diverse and includes people of different faiths and none. The invitational and inclusive character of collective worship respects this and will always be

¹ Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring Guidance Document The Church of England

invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Inclusive Invitational Inspiring
- Church of England vision for education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.
- 2023 SIAMS Guidance.
- Religious Education Long Term Plan and current action plan, St Bridget's Church of England school.
- Religious Education Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools.
- Faith in the Nexus; National Institute for Christian Education Research

Collective Worship should:

- be an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Provide a chance to be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.²

RATIONALE – Why we do what we do...

- Collective Worship within the school day at St Bridget's recognises the importance of coming together with a common purpose and includes providing time, space and opportunity to reflect, encounter God, be still and think about the bigger questions of life.
- We seek to give an opportunity for those taking part to explore different and helpful ways of encountering God and developing spiritually both individually and as a gathered community.
- We recognise the importance of providing a distinct time and space from the rest of the school day.
- We want to provide an opportunity to show and share our mutual love and respect of one another, recognising that whilst we are a school with a Christian foundation, we are a diverse community of people who are Christians, people of other faiths and none.
- Together, we want to reflect the value, nature and mission of our school.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. (1944 Education Act)

² The Church of England website, Schools and Academies, Collective Worship.

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. We ask parents to discuss with the headteacher any reasons they might have for withdrawal from Collective Worship.

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. The collective worship policy at St Bridget's draws on guidance from the Church of England. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES – What we hope to achieve...

- For Collective Worship to be distinct and set aside from the rest of the school day.
- To provide a pause and some quiet time.
- For pupils and adults to flourish spiritually
- To take pupils and adults to the threshold of worship.
- To foster a sense of community.
- For the language, ritual and experience of worship to be familiar, comfortable and helpful in the spiritual journey.
- To provide children with the opportunity to learn about the example and teachings of Jesus and reflect on how that affects the lives of Christians.
- To help children 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.
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on life – providing a stimulus to encourage reflection.
- To help people explore how they encounter and engage with God.
- To enable stakeholders to feel more connected to the community within a spiritual context which results in a response affirming our gifts, value and place.
- To offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship
- To 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.

Collective Worship at St Bridget's – What it looks like in our school and church...

At St. Bridget's our collective worship combines a mixture of class based, whole school and cohort gatherings. Collective Worship may take place in the classroom, the school hall and in church.

An act of Collective Worship takes place every day.

CLASS BASED:

- Takes place daily whenever there is no school or cohort Collective Worship
- We use worship bags (cross, candle, bible and seasonal coloured liturgical cloth) to provide a visual focus and mark it out as a distinctive time
- Optional prayer activity bag provides resources for prayer.
- Collective prayers including school and Lord's prayer.
- Bible story or similar as a prompt for reflection.

COHORT (Years 1/2, Years 3/4, Years 5/6):

- Takes place twice a week (Typically Tuesday and Wednesday morning)
- Worship bags as visual focus (as above)
- Music and song
- Collective prayers
- Bible story and reflection/activity

WHOLE SCHOOL:

- Takes place twice a week typically Monday and Friday
- Visual focus
- Music and Song
- Collective prayers
- Inspirational stories, topical issues, bible stories
- Friday 'Merit Collective Worship' includes a celebration of our children's gifts

CHURCH SERVICES:

Whole School in attendance...

- Christmas Service from F2
- Christmas Service from Year 1
- Christmas Service from Year 2
- Christmas Service from Year 4
- Ash Wednesday/Lent Service from Year 5
- Easter Service from Year 3
- Leavers' Service from Year 6
- Harvest Festival led by Reverend Alex, the incumbent
- Ascension Day Service led by School Council & Reverend Alex
- Advent Service led by School Council & Reverend Alex

CHURCH SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY (optional attendance):

- Love Your Neighbour Service (celebrating the links between school and church)
- All Together Worship (a monthly, all-age service in church)

How collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish socially.

Collective worship

- provides a pause in an often otherwise busy school day
- provides space and time to reflect on peoples understanding and experience of God,
- offers all who take part an invitation and opportunity to encounter God.
- gives an opportunity to recognise our gifts, the things which we find life-giving as well as recognising the things which can hurt or limit us.
- enables people to reflect on who they are as a person, to recognise growth and know that whoever they are they are precious and loved by God.
- offers time in a day to pause and explore the big existential questions such as 'Who am I?' 'Why am I here?' and 'How then should I live?'"
- enables people to feel connected with others recognising their individual skills and gifts and their contribution to the whole school, community and the world.
- enables people to recognise what provides comfort and contentment as well as giving the opportunity to be stretched and challenged in a safe space.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. In particular Reverend Alex leads half termly sessions for teaching staff called 'Breathing Space' when together we explore matters of doctrine and engage in different styles of Christian prayer and worship.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

From September 2023 the Christian Ethos Lead will monitor frequency of class based collective worship. The Christian Ethos lead will collate a whole school Values Book providing evidence of Collective Worship including impact, effectiveness and value, this will sit alongside individual class Values Books.

Foundation Governors will provide written feedback on church services.

Monitoring Collective Worship will be a regular item of discussion at Christian Ethos Governors' Committee meetings.

There will be a small selection of Pupil feedback following whole school and cohort collective worship using an evaluation form, these will then be collated in the whole school Values Books.

Where possible parent feedback will be sought.

INCLUSION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children are invited to collective worship and are only withdrawn at the request of parents. Children are not to be withdrawn from collective worship for educational intervention.

RESPONSIBILITIES - Who is in charge of what.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that a daily act of Collective Worship takes place with support from the incumbent, the Christian Ethos Lead and Christian Ethos Governors' Committee.

The worship resources are provided by the Christian Ethos Lead.

The incumbent works with the Headteacher, Christian Ethos Lead to plan worship.

The pupils of the School Council are involved in planning seasonal services.

REVIEW

This policy will be formally reviewed in September 2026

The Christian Ethos Governors' Committee will reflect on this policy during their termly meetings.

DISSEMINATING THE POLICY

This policy is available on our school website. We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. In addition we have provided a 'one page easy guide' for use in each classroom to support those leading class based worship.

CONCLUSION

At St Bridget's we recognise and value what Collective Worship offers all members of our school community. We celebrate the partnership we have developed between school, church, community and home and this is lived out in our collective worship. We strive for our worship to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring and to provide the opportunity for pupils and adults to discover more about themselves and God, to flourish and to become the people they are called to be.

Documents to read in conjunction with this policy:

- Inclusive Invitational Inspiring (Church of England Guidance on Collective Worship)
- Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good.
- 2023 SIAMS Guidance.
- Religious Education Long Term Plan and Christian Ethos Governors' Action Plan.
- Religious Education Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools.
- Faith in the Nexus; National Institute for Christian Education Research

APPENDIX:

School Prayers

School Prayer

Oh Lord,
Bless our school.
That working together,
And praying together,
We may serve you,
And serve one another.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lunch Time Prayer

For food and fun and friendship,
Lord we give your thanks.
For health and strength and daily food,
Lord we give you thanks. Amen

Home Time Prayer

Lord, keep us safe this night,
Secure from all our fears.
May angels guard us whilst we sleep,
'til morning light appears. Amen.

School Blessing

The Lord bless you this day, in your work and in your play,
The Lord bless you when you are talking, listening and thinking,
The Lord bless you as you build friendships and care for one another,
The lord bless you, those you love and those who love you
Amen.

Liturgical greeting

The Lord be with you – **and also with you**
Let us love one another - **because love comes from God**