



*'Learning and growing together in Christian friendship'*

## **ST. BENEDICT BISCOP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Collective worship is a valued, integral part of daily school life for all children at St Benedict Biscop C of E Primary School. The main aim of collective worship at St Benedict Biscop is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, whatever their faith background, set within the Anglican Christian tradition of the school. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our motto: 'Learning and growing together in Christian friendship.' It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, children, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. Furthermore, through collective worship we provide the opportunity for children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; we encourage active participation and response through listening, questioning, exploring and reflecting. This contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child where the worth and value of every single person in the school community can be celebrated. This enables the school to develop a community spirit, promote shared values and reinforce positive attitudes. A broad and flexible approach is adopted for collective worship, where the whole community can experience the living expression of Christian worship as honoured through the school's Anglican ethos. This is set within the context of the corporate and inclusive community of our school, which values each individual regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

### **Christian Values**

St Benedict Biscop C of E Primary School promotes the core values of generosity, forgiveness, friendship, and perseverance; through these broad descriptors we explore and promote the wider values of fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth. These values are embodied by our school motto 'Learning and Growing Together in Christian Friendship' and underpinned by our biblical verse 'Encourage one another and build each other up' 1 Thessalonians 5:11. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection providing time in worship for children to reflect on the messages shared and how they can demonstrate these values and the example of Jesus in their daily life.

### **Statutory Requirements**

The daily act of collective worship at St Benedict Biscop complies with the school's Trust Deed, which requires worship to be, 'consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.'

We recognise the right of withdrawal of children from worship at the request of parents and carers, but currently enjoy full participation and full support of the school community. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents and carers would be encouraged to discuss the issues with the head teacher.

### **Aims of Collective Worship and Assembly**

Collective worship at St Benedict Biscop Church of England Primary School aims to be inclusive and inspirational. We aim to encourage children to reflect on the messages of the bible and consider how the teaching of Jesus is reflected in their own lives. Collective worship provides opportunities for children to



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see how Christian Values can guide our lives and the lives of others, to reflect upon our own spirituality and to consider how we can become courageous advocates for change in our community and the wider world. Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration.

### **Worship**

#### **Values Education**

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence, leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

- Collective worship creates an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural and aims to explore and enjoy the rituals and traditions of the Christian faith (particularly the Anglican tradition).
- Collective worship assists children in developing a sense of awe and wonder and promotes sensitivity to the mysteries of life.
- Collective worship creates a special atmosphere to allow for spiritual reflection, silence, prayer, praise and response.
- Collective worship points children to an awareness of God.
- Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account children of other faiths within our school community.)
- Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to develop a faith to live by and make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

### **Assembly**

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school and evokes a sense of belonging. It develops a sense of community and shared values, enhancing the ethos of the school. Assembly is concerned with administrative and other matters about school life, Assembly is an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community achievements and occasions of significance, including festivals of the Christian and other world faiths. In assembly we consider the needs of others and the environment as well as encouraging/supporting charitable works. Assembly aims to be challenging, inspiring and foster a thought provoking atmosphere.

### **CURRENT PRACTICE**

At St Benedict Biscop a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. All teachers currently take an active role in leading worship with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher taking a prominent role. We are developing the role of our worship council who lead some worship and evaluate the impact of worship across the school. A wide variety of child-led worship is actively encouraged. The parish priest is a frequent visitor to the school and leads worship once a week. Parents, governors, faith community representatives and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate. Visitors are invited to lead acts of worship, or to commemorate special festivals or school occasions. Celebration Worship takes place every Thursday and is led by the Headteacher or a member of



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the senior management team. Christian Value awards, decided upon by teachers and other school staff and children are presented by the parish priest during weekly worship.

Each class within the school has its own unique worship area. This area is often utilised during classroom worship: it includes a cross, candle, cloth, Bible and the class worship reflection book. Additional items to prompt reflection may be unique to the class such as thought for the week, prayer book etc. Children are encouraged to write prayers to share with their peers. A number of displays around the school are of a Christian nature and may be an expression of children's spirituality and worship.

Each class adds to their worship reflection book regularly; this includes children's observations, reflections, response to Biblical stories and prayers. It is a book that the children are proud of and displays their spiritual progress through the half-termly focus on each value and the festivals and Saints days from the Christian calendar across the academic year. The book progresses with the class as they move up the school so that they can reflect upon their growing spirituality.

### Content of Daily Worship

- Reflect our school Christian values and other Christian values
- Cover all the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching and linked to the eight core concepts in Understanding Christianity
- Use the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer and prayers written by children.
- Develop an appreciation of the diversity of liturgical and other traditions of the worldwide Anglican Church.
- Be presented using a variety of styles which includes music, story, drama, singing, reflection and stillness
- Music is played to create atmosphere and candles are lit to mark the beginning and end of worship. A worship table with cloths of appropriate liturgical colours is used in the school hall.

### Weekly Worship

Nursery children take part in worship within their classroom, they join the whole school for the Christmas service in church. The pattern for worship for the rest of the school each week at present is as follows:

	Reception	KS1 and KS2
Monday	Whole School Worship SLT	Whole School Worship SLT
Tuesday	Class Worship	Class Worship
Wednesday	Singing Practice	Singing Practice
Thursday	Class worship	Reflection and praise
Friday	Whole School Worship Clergy Led	Whole School Worship Clergy Led

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 school, local national or international incidents.

### Other daily acts

- Reflection and prayer at the end of each school day and before lunchtime
- The lighting of a candle at the beginning of worship to symbolise God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to create a calm, reflective atmosphere.
- The sharing of the school prayer and silent daily reflection time.



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### **Worship in church**

In addition, the whole school worships in St Benedict Biscop Church to celebrate the beginning and end of the school year. In addition, we join together for the main Christian celebrations throughout the year: Easter and Christmas. The Clergy and children play a key role in the planning and presentation of all these services. Parents and friends are invited on these occasions. Children also visit the church as part of the Religious Education curriculum which enhances their worship experience. The school also promotes links with the church through our weekly Christian Club run by the church children's worker. We encourage younger children to join Messy Church and shares information from the church children's worker

### **Management of Collective Worship.**

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the school is honoured, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community. Collective worship at St Benedict Biscop C of E Primary School is co-ordinated by the Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher. A half termly plan for worship is devised by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. There is a new value introduced to the school by the head teacher at the beginning of each half term and the school then explores elements of this value through a variety of methods and groupings throughout each week building a depth of understanding of how we can demonstrate and live that value based on the teaching of the bible. This ensures a coherent programme for collective worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience. The Deputy Head Teacher shares a range of resources and activities, ensuring they are accessible to children and staff as appropriate. The Deputy Headteacher keeps in touch with current developments in the subject and ensures that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan to allow for INSET and resource development.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community are all asked to help evaluate the impact of collective worship. These evaluations are analysed by the Worship Council, Head, Deputy Head and Foundation Governors and changes implemented when necessary.

The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

### **Linked Documents**

Religious Education Policy

Policy dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023