



OLD BEXLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love God ♦ Love Each Other ♦ Love Learning

*Happy Children and Limitless Learning in an Anglican Christian School
A place where everyone can flourish*

Reviewed	Agreed by Staff	Agreed by Governors	Review Date
September 2021	September 2021	September 2021	September 2022

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Curriculum Vision:

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Old Bexley CE Primary and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, recognises, and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of the whole school community, ensuring that all children flourish in their learning and live life in all its fullness. Through Collective Worship, we seek to encourage and celebrate the Fruit of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

Intent:

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- 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 through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Embed, encourage and celebrate *Fruit of the Spirit*

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that Collective Worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

Implementation:

Collective Worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils and the clergy of our local Church of England Team Ministry in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. It is an opportunity to further embed the school's vision.

Our school plans systematically and cohesively using the Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning, which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short-term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the Senior Leadership Team in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children, as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet every morning in both KS1 and KS2 halls for worship:

KS1	KS2
Deputy Head	Head Teacher
Head Teacher	Year Group Leader
Year Group/Class worship	Year Group/Class worship
Vicar/RE Co-ordinator	Assistant Deputy/Vicar
Head Teacher (AM)	Head Teacher (PM)

Our worship consists of four stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle
- **Engage** – we share a bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- **Respond** -- pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing

- **Send** – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities:

A daily act of worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Children are encouraged to respect and celebrate the religious and cultural diversity of the school community. Every effort is made by the school to ensure the involvement of all children unless withdrawn by their parents.

Parental Engagement:

Parents and carers are invited to attend Friday celebration worship, which acknowledges children's achievements throughout the week.

Years 5 and 6 have a termly Eucharist service in school, led by clergy from the Bexley Team Ministry. In addition, Years 3 and 4 also have a Liturgy service each term led by clergy. Parents/carers are invited to attend these services.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama and use of IT.

Expectations of Pupils:

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with their class teacher during lunchtime to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Developing Worship/Resources:

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of Collective Worship. The Collective Worship Leader attends regular professional development with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Role of the Collective Worship Leader:

The Collective Worship Leader will:

- Ensure that Collective Worship meets the aims and expectations as set out by SIAMS
- Liaise with colleagues to ensure the expectations of Collective Worship are understood
- Observe and monitor Collective Worship, and support colleagues to develop their expertise
- Provide opportunities for, and respond to feedback about Collective Worship
- Liaise periodically with members of the clergy and with school governors.

Self-assessment, Inspection and Monitoring

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of Collective Worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our Governors, and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester.

Parental Withdrawal:

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship on grounds of conscience. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos, we would hope that anyone wishing to withdraw his or her child would discuss this with the Head Teacher before making this decision.