

# Collective Worship



## Policy for Collective Worship

### 1. Strategy

- 1.1 We want Blakedown CE Primary School to preserve its Christian values and develop its reputation as a successful and forward thinking school where everyone can understand the meaning and significance of faith through the experiences we offer to all pupils. The school aims to give children both knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith while respecting and understanding other religions and cultures. This is expressed in our school vision which is embedded in Psalm 139:14 - **'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'** derived from the fact we are all unique and made in God's image with individual talents and dreams. Through our acts of collective worship, the children will experience **JOY** in the celebration of Christian values, identifying these within themselves and applying them to everyday life. They will respond to show these in acts of **SERVICE** towards others within the school and the community and feel a sense of **ACHIEVEMENT** and belonging.
- 1.2 Whilst recognising the fact that we live in a multi-faith society, we believe that it is our responsibility to reflect Christian beliefs and accept that the school can, and should openly witness to its Christian nature. As a Church of England School, Collective Worship will be in accordance with the principles and beliefs of the Church of England.

**JOY      SERVE      ACHIEVE**

### 2. Policy

- 2.1 Collective worship at Blakedown C E Primary School aims to provide the opportunity for spiritual and personal growth through a variety of worship (Liturgy) experiences of stillness, peace, reflection, reverence and belonging.
- 2.2 It aims to develop community spirit as the school meets as one body and reflects upon its common ethos and shared values.
- 2.3 Collective Worship aims to provide an atmosphere for personal reflection on spiritual issues, acknowledging, in so doing that children need to feel secure to express their own beliefs, doubts, concerns and hopes, and also develop a better understanding of themselves; developing self-confidence and self-esteem.
- 2.4 Collective Worship will also affirm the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever their gender, ethnicity or physical or mental ability.
- 2.5 As a church school we seek to maintain good relationships with the worshipping community at St. James' Church. Effective communication is maintained through the Priest in Charge taking Collective Worship each week and Foundation Governors serving both school and church.

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2.6 The children attend St James' church at special festivals throughout the Church Calendar and at other appropriate times during the year. They take an active part in the services often through reading, role play, singing and playing musical instruments.

**3. Procedure**

3.1 There is a daily act of worship. The school comes together four days a week, with one day a week reserved for each class to have its own time of reflection based on the value of the half term.

<b>Monday</b>	Whole School Worship - A new value each half term & led by Headteacher Open the Book Worship - twice a half term led by church community.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Key Stage Worship - led by members of staff on a rota within the key stage.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Class Worship - led by the class teacher
<b>Thursday</b>	Whole School Singing Praise - led by music lead and rota of staff.
<b>Friday</b>	Recognition Assembly - led by Headteacher

3.2 Once a year each class is asked to lead worship for the whole school, usually at a particular time of celebration in the church year. This can take place in school or church, parents and carers of the lead class are invited to attend.

3.3 Members of Year 6 and the Worship Council take an active part in preparing for each form of worship, by preparing the physical space; reading Bible stories, acting and leading prayer.

3.4 A range of activities is encouraged. It is likely that each act of collective worship will include one or more of the following:

- 3.5.1 Introductory music to create a mood and focus attention
- 3.5.2 The singing of hymns and songs
- 3.5.3 The reading of a short passage from the Bible
- 3.5.4 Hearing a talk or a story
- 3.5.5 Opportunities for reflective silence
- 3.5.6 The hearing/joining in of a prayer
- 3.5.7 Audiovisual material
- 3.5.8 Drama and role play
- 3.5.9 Active pupil involvement
- 3.5.10 Preparation of the focus table:
  - 3.5.1.1 Lighting of the candle
  - 3.5.1.2 Use of cloth in Liturgical colours
  - 3.5.1.3 Placement of Christian symbolism e.g. cross

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- 3.6 Careful attention to appropriateness is important, as the inclusion of any or all of the above elements do not automatically lead to worship.
- 3.7 The majority of weeks of the year will have a designated value linked to a rolling programme and supported by the Roots and Fruits documents, to encourage consistency and continuity of approach and to lessen confusion in the minds of our pupils.
- 3.8 The school welcomes Open the Book church representatives twice each half term to deliver and involve pupils - this also reflects the half termly value or period of time in the church calendar.  
Accredited clergy from other churches and Christian denominations and representatives of other faiths are also welcome to show diversity of religious belief and where possible, visiting clergy will be asked to follow these suggestions. Some content is carried through into Religious Education lessons and class worship.
- 3.9 Collective Worship values are shared with staff and the church lay person and are displayed on the notice board in the school hall and staff room. The values are often shared with parents on the newsletter.

**3.10 Resources**

The school has a range of resources and artefacts to support the delivery of Collective Worship, these include but not limited to: Values for Life; Big Start Assemblies; Roots & Fruits and Out of the Box Worship. Use is also made of material made available on the Internet. Resources are added to each year.

**3.11 Withdrawal rights**

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from attendance at Collective Worship. Should such a request be made the Headteacher will invite the parent(s) to discuss the matter in order that necessary arrangements can be made, and to ensure that all the practical implications of withdrawal are appreciated.

**4. Monitor & Review**

- 4.1 The Policy was developed by members of the Governing Body with the Headteacher and will be reviewed on a regular basis, but no less frequently than every three years.
- 4.2 Evaluation on the effectiveness of Collective Worship will include Governor visits, oral feedback from pupils and the observation of the implementation of the principles taught into the practice within school.

## Blakedown Vision

**JOY      SERVE      ACHIEVE**

At Blakedown, the roots of our vision are embedded in Psalm 139:14.

**'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'**

derived from the fact we are all unique and made in God's image with individual talents and dreams.

We want our children to be happy in and out of school, to have a deep-rooted sense of **JOY** in their lives and to be content and comfortable with who they are;

We want our children to recognise their individuality and to use their talents and abilities in **SERVICE** of others;

We want our children to be equipped with a love of learning and the skills and resilience to flourish in the face of life's challenges to **ACHIEVE** and be the best version of themselves.