

Bishop Ridley Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship plays an important and central role in the life of Bishop Ridley Church of England Primary School. It nurtures the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children in a Christian setting, in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Our aims

Through Collective Worship we aim

- ❖ to foster our pupils' spiritual development by teaching them about God and giving them the opportunity to worship Him; we encourage reflection and thinking, helping children to recognise the spiritual dimension of life;
- ❖ to foster our pupils' moral development by teaching and promoting Christian values and teaching respect for other faiths;
- ❖ to foster our pupils' social development by involving them in worship, as in other areas of school life; they are encouraged to share their own experiences, ideas and beliefs as members of the school community;
- ❖ to foster our pupils' cultural development by providing opportunities for the children to experience, appreciate and respond to music, literature and art.

Organisation

Collective worship is held daily for all pupils as follows:

DAY	GROUP	TIME	PLACE	LEADER
Monday	Infants	10.25 - 10.40am	Hall	Teaching Staff
	Juniors	9.20 – 9.35am	Hall	Head Teacher
Tuesday	Whole school	9.20-9.35am	Hall	Clergy
Wednesday	Junior choral worship	9.20 – 9.40am	Hall	Head Teacher (& staff rota)
	Infant choral worship	10.25 - 10.40am	Hall	Deputy Head (& staff rota)
Thursday	Juniors	9.20 - 9.35am	Hall	Teaching Staff
	Infants	10.25 - 10.40am	Hall	Head Teacher
Friday	Whole school Achievements/ Celebration	10 -10.40am	Hall	Head Teacher & classes

Staff attend Collective Worship and parents are invited to the Friday worship. When the hall is being used (eg. for photographs) classes have their own act of worship in their classrooms.

During Choral Worship children learn new hymns and songs, reflecting upon the meaning and messages of those songs and praising God through music.

The Vicar and other members of Bishop Ridley Church lead collective worship for the whole school every Tuesday. These acts of worship reflect and complement those at the Church.

The children in the Nursery have their own daily collective worship, with prayers, stories, songs and moments for reflection. They attend some of the whole school and infant acts of worship depending on the content and suitability, as well as the maturity of the children.

On Fridays classes show good work and celebrate achievements. Certificates are awarded. Parents, carers, relatives and friends are invited to attend. We thank God for our talents and for our school. We offer up our achievements and work to God.

Special acts of worship, some of which take place at Bishop Ridley Church, are held throughout the year to celebrate specific events:

- ❖ Harvest (October)
- ❖ Remembrance Day (11th November)
- ❖ Christmas (Christingle, crib service and carol service; Infant plays with nativity)
- ❖ Lent (spring term)
- ❖ Easter (end of spring term)
- ❖ Pentecost (mid-summer term)

Feast days and festivals in the Christian calendar are also celebrated during collective worship (eg. Michaelmas, Advent, Epiphany, Lent). Every class visits Bishop Ridley Church at least once a year for a service in which pupils take a leading role and year 6 pupils attend a Eucharist service every term.

We invite CRIBS (Christian Resources in Bexley Schools) in to lead special acts of worship at Christmas, Easter and other times of the year. Other visiting groups and speakers are also invited to contribute to collective worship throughout the year (eg. a local preacher visits regularly, as well as representatives of charities and other similar organisations).

Content and Context of Acts of Worship

Worship is seen as a special occasion, when members of the school community come together to celebrate and worship God. Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall. Visual aids and artefacts are often used to stimulate thought and discussion.

The content of our collective worship is based on Christian teachings and values, with the Bible at the centre. Worship is delivered in a variety of ways and involves songs and hymns, prayers, story-telling, role play and drama, presentations, readings, showing and talking.

Worship reflects the main events in the Christian calendar, including saints' days and festivals (eg. Advent and Lent). It also responds to issues and events within the school (eg. racism, anti-bullying week, sharing) and in the wider community (eg. responding to natural disasters, bereavement). In addition there are on-going themes based on core Christian values (Appendix 1) and a record of acts of worship is kept (Appendix 2). Staff and pupils evaluate acts of worship and they are monitored by the Head Teacher, who is the collective worship co-ordinator. Resources for use during worship are kept in the hall and supplemented regularly.

Participation and Withdrawal

We expect all parents and pupils to support the ethos of the school and by adopting an inclusive approach all children are encouraged to participate in worship. Although parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from RE and Collective Worship they are encouraged to discuss the matter fully with the school before making such a decision. Pupils who are withdrawn are supervised and take part in a curricular activity at the time.

Spiritual Areas

We have designated a quiet part of the corridor outside the hall as a spiritual area. Selected children (those chosen as 'pupils of the week') are able to sit, read, think and reflect here during breaktimes. There is a prayer table, quiet music and artefacts to encourage contemplation and a display of the Christian calendar illustrated by works of art. We also have a spiritual garden in our courtyard, cared for and maintained by pupils. This is used in the same way as the indoor area when the weather permits, although children have to be supervised by an adult because of the water feature.

Prayer

Prayer plays an important role in the daily life of the school. Classrooms and shared areas have a space set aside for prayer and reflection. Prayers are said during the school day, during Acts of Worship, and in class before lunchtime and at the end of the day. Those used in collective worship reflect the theme and content (eg. justice, humility, wisdom, thankfulness), as well as the Lord's Prayer. Liturgical responses and the Grace are also used regularly. Children contribute prayers to worship both in school and at the church and are encouraged to incorporate prayer into their everyday life.

Policy last reviewed: November 2014

Appendix 1: Collective Worship Yearly Plan

Appendix 2: Record sheet