

Bicton C.E. Primary School & Nursery

Learning for a Lifetime



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims

Through our act of collective worship, we aim to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development of the child;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- introduce children to the value of the Bible;
- encourage respect and care for God's creation;
- enable children and staff to appreciate their worth and value to God and the community;
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- give time to celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of life and living;
- allow time to reflect on success and failure and to encourage expressions of determination to always do one's best;
- and to give children experience of silent reflection and prayer.

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship where we encourage everyone to take an active part.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*,' we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our class- and whole-school worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also explore other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school but the time of day varies and so does its organisation. Collective worship may be taken as a whole school, in Key Stages or in individual classes in the form of class worship. A record of our worship is kept which may include key questions and themes explored as well as children's responses.

We welcome visitors to participate in organising acts of worship. Members of the church visit school every fortnight to conduct collective worship in the form of Open the Book. In addition, we welcome representatives of national or local groups, including charities, during the year

We conduct worship and assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Staff and children see this as a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer, hymns and reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we regularly reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place.

Celebration Assemblies, which take place each term in the school Hall, reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We invite parents to these Celebration Assemblies which promote the community spirit of the school and are a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. These termly celebrations provide an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of our school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Bicton CE Primary School is a successful school and we recognise the successes of all the children in these celebration assemblies.

We welcome our governors at any time to collective worship.

Day	Venue	Who is involved	Time	Style	Lead
Monday	In classes	Classes	Flexible	Flexible – linked to spirituality/ PSHE/Bible focus	School staff
Tuesday	Hall	Whole school	9:05 – 9:30	Bible focus/ linked to SMSC or PSHE	Head/teachers/pupils
Wednesday	Hall	Whole school	9:05 – 9:30	Linked to singing	Singing lead teacher
Thursday	Hall	Whole school	9:05 – 9:30	Distinct Bible focus	Church/Head/teachers/ pupils
Friday	Hall	Whole school	9:05 – 9:30	Celebration	Head

It is important that the relationship between RE, Assembly and Worship is understood by staff and pupils. These distinctive activities all contribute to a broad and balanced curriculum and should support one another. When planning these activities, teaching staff take a range of learning styles into account to create opportunities that are accessible by all children.

RE is about developing knowledge and understanding, concepts, skills and attitudes in order to make decisions about fundamental questions. It involves both learning about religion and learning from religion. We believe that a classroom context is more appropriate for effective RE to take place.

Assembly is an occasion when pupils are gathered together in a larger group, usually with some formality. One of its many purposes is to strengthen the sense of the school as a community with shared ethos, values and aims. Worship can take place within an assembly and can be seen as one element or dimension but an act of worship is far more than just a coming together of the school and should meet the definition of worship as described in this policy. An assembly does not have to include an act of worship nor does an act of worship have to take place in an assembly. Assembly provides the situation for exploring ritual and ceremonial aspects of worship and opportunities for starting points and end points involving all areas of the curriculum. Themes that are introduced in an act of worship may be further developed in RE lessons or in other areas of the curriculum and so help the child to interpret the experience of school worship.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to take part in collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the children during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

Our link governor for collective worship visits school every term to discuss issues relating to collective worship. This is an important feature of teaching and learning in Bicton C. E. Primary School and Nursery and features each year as part of our 'vision' as well as in our School Development Plan.

This policy was reviewed in October 2017 and will reviewed bi-annually.

Signed Head teacher

Signed Chair of Governing Body