

# Bicton C.E. Primary School & Nursery

*Learning for a Lifetime*



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."***  
**John 10:10**

## **Our Mission**

At Bicton C E Primary School and Nursery, through our Christian ethos, we aim to create a stimulating, secure and supportive environment where pupils are challenged and encouraged to develop to their full potential. We have high expectations of every individual and seek to develop the whole child academically, physically, spiritually, morally and culturally. We believe that the partnership between pupil, parents, staff, governors, the wider community and the Church are vital to the success of the school. We promote quality relationships, where positive self-esteem, mutual respect and responsibility are regarded as most important.

Our worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith but accessible to all members of the school community. Collective Worship is regarded as an important part of the school's daily life. It offers the whole school community opportunities to participate in the living expression of Christian worship and aims to develop in the pupils a sympathetic understanding of the meaning and significance of Christian faith. It values and honours every individual's unique contribution regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.

## **Our Ethos**

We nurture and inspire all children in our care to flourish and develop a lifelong love of learning, becoming the best they can be. This is further developed through our acts of collective worship. We provide inclusive, invitational and inspiring worship, equipping children with the resilience, confidence and independence needed for our ever-changing world. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will be at our heart.

## **What is the distinctive Christian Character of our school?**

At Bicton Primary school we encourage the deepening of pupils understanding of core Bible stories linked to our values, encouraging the spiritual and ethical development of our children. This is based around our 4 Core Christian values:

**Peace, Perseverance, Joy and Love**  
(also encompassing kindness, generosity and respect)

Together, the staff, governors, and children have thoughtfully selected a series of Bible stories that reflect and reinforce our core values, bringing them to life across our school community.

### **Calming The Storm (Mark 4:39) – linked to our value of Peace**

Jesus calms the storm with the words *"Peace! Be still!"*

We believe this beautifully connects to children's lives. It reminds us that even in times of fear, chaos, or uncertainty, there is a source of calm and reassurance. For children, this can inspire the understanding that no matter how overwhelming their emotions or situations might feel, they can find stillness and peace—through prayer, through trusted adults, and through moments of quiet reflection.

### **The Good Shepherd (John 10:11) Linked to our value of Perseverance, Joy and Love:**

As a school within a rural village, our inspiration is taken from the story of The Good Shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus says,

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep."

This reminds us that Jesus's unwavering love for each individual mirrors the attentiveness and care a shepherd shows his flock. In embracing this example, our school endeavours to cultivate a nurturing and inclusive environment in which every member of our community is recognised, valued, and cherished.

### **Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:16-23) Linked to our value of Perseverance**

The story of Daniel in the Lion's Den shows the power of perseverance. Even when faced with danger and the threat of death, Daniel continued to pray and stay faithful to God, refusing to give up on what he believed was right. His courage and determination remind us that perseverance means standing strong in our values, even when it's difficult. Just like Daniel, we are encouraged to keep going, trust in what is right, and never give up, no matter the challenges we face.

### **Palm Sunday – Linked to our value of Joy**

The story of Palm Sunday is a joyful moment in the Bible when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed by crowds waving palm branches and shouting praises. The people were full of joy because they believed Jesus

was the promised King who had come to bring hope and peace. This reminds us that true joy comes from recognising and celebrating the good in others and the love that Jesus brings. At Bicton, we can show joy by being thankful, sharing happiness with others, and celebrating moments of kindness and hope.

**Our school values are deeply embedded in every aspect of school life—shaping our curriculum, guiding our worship, and enriching our experiences through visits and visitors. They form the foundation upon which our vision is built.**

### **Collective Worship**

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation; therefore, for the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" reflects an act which is special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

Worship is distinctively different from the assembly part of our shared time and, although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two will be considered.

The aims of our assembly are:

- to develop a sense of community and shared values
- to consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- to be challenging and inspiring
- to celebrate achievement
- to give out notices and information to the whole school

### **Aims**

To take part in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance. We hope worship will elicit a response from everyone taking part.

We aim to:

- provide an opportunity for the school community to worship God;
- to explore and enjoy praise and prayer
- promote spiritual, moral, cultural and mental development;
- 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;
- through an acknowledgement of diversity, promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes;
- to foster sympathy, empathy or imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- 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;
- to foster and give children experience of stillness, reflection/meditation, prayer and silence.
- to realise they are on a spiritual journey with choices and responsibilities along the way
- to encounter the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God

### **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This will be held for 20 minutes daily and may take place in a variety of places.

Collective worship may be taken as a whole school, in Key Stages or in individual classes in the form of class worship.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

The appointed members of staff will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's safeguarding Policies and ethos during their visit.

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 create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and 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, embedded with our Christian values. We regularly reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes.

Celebration worships, which take place weekly, allow the whole school community to recognise those pupils sharing our Christian values as courageous advocates both within and beyond our school.

They play an important part in promoting the ethos of our school, knowing 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 our children.

We welcome our governors at any time to collective worship.

Day	Venue	Who is involved	Time
Monday	Hall	Whole school	2.55pm
Tuesday	Hall	Whole school	8.55am
Wednesday	Hall	Whole school	8.55am
Thursday	Classroom (Key Stage 1) Hall (Key Stage 2)	KS	2.55pm
Friday	Hall	Whole school	2.50pm

#### **Our worship council lead the introductions and ending to our worship.**

The teaching staff share responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis, with the Executive Head ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, developed termly, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience, and breadth and balance.

Records of themes and suggested resources/activities are displayed on the staffroom walls, and stored in files that shows termly coverage. Themes are planned on a two year cycle.

An annual budget allows resources to be continually updated.

Staff attend relevant training and development to ensure that practice and professional knowledge is current and relevant.

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.

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.

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 are an inclusive community but recognise that parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the children during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Monitoring and review**

Our governors visit school every term to discuss and monitor 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.

Inspection of collective worship will be arranged with Lichfield Diocesan Authority.

LEGAL information as per RBH and School bus

**This policy was reviewed in June 2025 and will reviewed bi-annually.**

Signed ..... Head teacher

Signed ..... Chair of Governing Body

### **And Appendix**

#### **Appendices:**

##### **Current Practice**

#### **Organisation**

A daily act of worship is held. This may be whole school, key stage or within classes. Nursery children may join us in our worship.

A timetable is developed termly showing a daily breakdown of themes. Sometimes a class circle time act of worship is used.

We provide opportunities for children to worship in Church. These occasions provide experiences of worshipping with a wider (Christian) community and may include Christmas/Christingle, Easter and Harvest Festival.

There are good links with the Church through children's workshops for KS2 children eg spirituality day, confirmation classes, handbells club and choir.

We take the themes for our worship time from the scheme 'Values for Life' and Roots and Fruits resources, as recommended by our diocesan representative and linked to Shropshire's SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) scheme of work. These are enhanced by add on themes taken from the traditions of the Christian faith. We reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship times reflect and build on topics we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Where possible, we encourage the children to participate in worship time by showing their work to other children and raising issues they have discussed in class.

We have a worship council who share ongoing conversations with staff to ensure our worship does not become dull or boring; they bring new ideas and help to develop the journey of faith in our school. They lead at least one worship per week.

### **Methodology for delivering the worship**

The timing of Worship Time is decided upon in order to facilitate a calm atmosphere.

Teaching staff attend acts of worship in order to enable progression and ensure a whole school approach.

These arrangements are continually under review as circumstances change.

Themes developed in acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance and variety, including all elements of worship regularly. This is achieved by a retrospective overview of past coverage.

### **Leading the Act of Worship**

Children are encouraged to behave quietly and with respect. The children enter and leave the hall whilst a piece of music is played and may reflect during the playing of the music for the act of worship. Careful planning is given to the chosen music to allow spiritual development of the community in school.

We conduct worship time in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that worship time is a period of calm reflection; we regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are quiet and thoughtful and listen carefully to the teachings and messages, participating in prayer and hymns/songs and the theme, as appropriate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by playing music and lighting candles or using other objects as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The act of worship includes the singing of a hymn/song. The theme will be introduced and presented through a variety of ways, for example:

- Story
- Drama
- Music
- Pictures
- Poems
- Children's work

On occasions, our worship time may be conducted 'in the round' or other forms. This we believe promotes the notion of reverence and respect and encouraging our pupils to see worship as inspirational. We occasionally carry out worship outdoors.

### **Content**

Worship should leave children free to respond in a way that is appropriate for their age, experience and understanding.

Worship complements classroom teaching, and values explored in worship powerfully communicate the ethos of the school.

Various concepts are central to the traditional Christian belief such as reconciliation, incarnation and creation. Such beliefs are shared across Christian traditions and form a focus for school worship.

The general development of pupils will be assisted by:

- providing them with opportunities for developing performance and leadership skills.

- developing their singing abilities
- providing opportunity for group participation and presentation
- Collective reflection on how the world really works (eg. Questions of ethics, power and justice)

The moral development of pupils will be given the opportunity to:

- reflect on moral and social issues
- appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others, particularly those whose voice is not heard
- consider how to challenge injustice

In looking out to the wider world, pupils will have the opportunity to:

- take note of events in the world and express joy and sorrow, as appropriate
- celebrate and give thanks
- consider why and how they can be agents of change in their own environment/context

We aim that, as a result of inspirational collective worship, pupils and adults are inspired to become people of action and courageous advocates - speaking out against injustice and helping those in need.

### **Participation**

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the delivery of worship time in a variety of ways:

- leading
- playing music to accompany singing - guitar/recorder/CD
- selecting appropriate songs/music
- selecting and playing music for pupils entering and leaving
- reading prayers
- acting
- take responsibility for setting out and clearing away

There is a rota of pupils' leading worship, planned and lead entirely by older pupils. Pupils receive training and support with these. Our worship council helps to develop worship ideas and suggestions into practise.

We expect that the school's collective worship practices will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words, and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, at all times in our life journey but particularly, in times of both joy and grief.

Resources:

These are located in the Head's office (worship books) and outside the hall.

- worship table
- music, hymn words and books (online)
- Christian artefacts - resource cupboard
- Welcome to worship on the door (includes an overview of the worship structure) - see below

## Worship

Bicton CE Primary School

We share;

- A calm and reflective entry - worship council members to lead the transition from class to the hall. Music to be played on entry
- A welcome to all to worship
- Lighting the candle and recalling the trinity
- Share the school prayer
- The value for the term
- A bible story
- The links of our bible story to our school values
- Reflection time - how does this apply to you? Quiet time to think then discuss how it links to us and our school? to the world? Can we think of anyone who demonstrates this value (or historically demonstrated it)
- A Song
- A Prayer
- Blowing out candle
- Any post worship activities ie birthdays, messages etc

Everyone is welcome to join us in our worship  
– we hope you enjoy spending this time with  
us.