

BENTLEY ST PAUL'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



'Growing together in faith, love and trust, we will succeed.'

Date of Policy: June 2015

Date of Review: June 2018

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Contents

1. Act of Collective Worship

- Aim
- Organisation
- Elements of worship
- Senses and Feelings related to our Christian Values
- Inclusion
- Resources

2. Act of Worship Framework

3. Monitoring, Recording and Evaluating Acts of Worship

4. Health and Safety

Act of Collective Worship

Aim

Collective worship at Bentley St. Paul's aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues alongside the school's Christian values and to explore their own beliefs. We aim to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship, or through listening to, and joining in with, the worship offered. We aim to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared Christian values and reinforce worshipful attitudes.

Organisation

The religious foundation of the school as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England, and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

All children attend the daily Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by their parent/guardian.

The programme of collective worship is as follows: -

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	HT Christian Values/ British Values	Team/Mini Team Bible Stories (Open the Book)	DHT Christian Values & Growth Mindset	Key Stage SEAL	Good Work/Golden Leaves

The act of worship will be based on: -

- Timetabled themes across the term
- Monthly themes that relate to the Christian Church
- Special events in the Christian calendar
- Issues that arise from the everyday life
- and ethos of the school that may also relate to the school's Christian values.

Christian Values	British Values	SEAL
Friendship Forgiveness Trust Peace Wisdom Responsibility Respect and Reverence	Democracy The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Mutual Respect and Tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs	New Beginnings Getting on and Falling Out Say No to Bullies Going for Goals Good to be Me

At specific times throughout the school year, celebrations of worship are held at Bentley St. Paul's church. A typical year includes three Eucharist services (Christmas, Easter, Summer) and a Harvest Festival service. In addition, there is a Year 6 Leaver's service at the end of the summer term. Parents, family, church members, governors and friends share in these services. Classes take a leading role in the services, these are as follows:

Harvest	Christmas Eucharist	Easter Eucharist	Summer Eucharist	Year 6 Leaver's service
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	EYFS and KS1	Year 6

Children who have been confirmed, or who usually take communion in their own Church are invited to take Communion, all the other children are invited to come up and receive a blessing. Confirmation is offered to year 6 pupils.

Collective worship time in school is distinct from other classroom activities, but retains a sense of occasion and togetherness, linking effectively with our school Christian values as much as possible. There is a focal point in the school hall or classrooms, and staff are given support as required when planning their acts of worship. In addition, the school has a range of specific resources and artefacts that can be added to enhance the focus. These items may include crosses, candles, symbolic ornaments, gifts from other countries, the 'Value's for Life' resource folder and SEL resources.

There is a reflection area within the school hall and this includes a prayer area. This varies from time to time but may include a prayer book, a prayer wall, a prayer tree or something similar. Children are encouraged to say their own prayers; write prayers they would like to be shared or simply demonstrate that they are reflecting or praying. Prayers are said regularly at the end of an assembly, often using the prayers written by the children as part of our collective worship. Each week, children are invited to compose a prayer for our weekly newsletters, these prayers are used to close our Good Work Assemblies on Friday afternoons and are either read out by the child or by the head boy/head girl.

Daily prayers are said in every class before lunch and at the end of the day. Sometimes these prayers are said spontaneously, learnt or read as a whole class or read from the class prayer book that is compiled from the pupils' written contributions.

Grace is said in the dinner hall before each lunch sitting is served.

During our acts of worship, children are given the opportunity to consider familiar ideas and explore new ones. They experience a wide diversity of worship practice that will encourage a variety of responses.

TEAM assembly

Team assembly is a group from St Paul's church who come to the school to lead collective worship. They use the 'Open the Book' programme and attend once a half term to enact stories for the bible and discuss what we can learn from them.

Mini Team

Mini Team is a small group from the school led by the minister for RE and Worship. They continue the 'Open the Book' programme on the weeks when TEAM are not able to attend. The children, led by the Minister, plan, prepare and lead the collective worship on their own.

Visiting Speakers

We welcome visiting speakers at Bentley. Our incumbent regularly visits and leads an act of Collective worship. Each half term we are visited by a member of the Brentwood School's Christian Worker Trust (BSCWT) who leads an act of collective worship. We encourage visiting preachers from other Churches and speakers who are of interest or relevant to specific themes within a term.

Elements of Worship

Songs and music

Prayer

Reflection and contemplation

Individual and group activity

Reading/telling stories

Special clothing and artefacts

Discussion, speech and silence

Procession and ritual action

Food and drink

Dance and drama

Uses of the senses

Artistic imagery and plainness

Different seating plans/organisation

Senses and Feelings related to our Christian Values

During our acts of worship, we focus upon the significance of our chosen school Christian values. Through pupil involvement and reflection we encourage and develop senses and feelings about:-

Friendship – being a good friend, what makes a good friend, am I a good friend?
God is everyone's friend.

Forgiveness – a sense of shared sadness and remorse, saying sorry, forgiving others, a sense of pity, when have you had to say sorry or forgive someone else?
God forgives.

Trust – trusting and believing in others, can we be trusted to keep our promises?
We trust each other, we trust in God

Peace – a sense of peace and thankfulness, a sense of stillness in the midst of busy experiences, a sense of smallness in the greatness of things.
Blessed are the peacemakers.

Wisdom – a feeling of pride, a sense of being special and valued in the face of the smallest things and achievements.
God is wisdom.

Responsibility – a sense of beauty, wonder and awe about God's world. How can we work together to take care of God's world?
We are responsible for God's creation.

Respect and Reverence – a sense of respect, reverence, thoughtfulness and love for all God's creation.
God's creation in our hands.

Inclusion

All pupils throughout the school are invited to take part in each of our acts of worship. Boys and girls of all abilities and ethnicity are included within the interactive involvement during assemblies.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship (Education Act 1988). A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written request to the Head Teacher.

Resources

There is a range of assembly resource ideas. Our main resource is the folder 'Values for Life' and this is supported by books, visual aids from the DVD and other pictures/posters, prayer books, websites and a variety of music resources (e.g. 'Out of the Ark', 'Come and Praise', 'Everyone's Singing Lord', 'No Pianist for Assembly, No Problem').

Act of Worship Framework

Most school acts of worship will be based upon the school's Christian values and the Christian church year. Many assemblies have related bible readings and songs or hymns. The framework for assemblies is taken from 'Values for Life', with guidance on planning and preparation available. All staff and visiting preachers are free to use these guidelines and personalise them accordingly. In general, worship will usually last for approximately twenty minutes. Once every half term, each class will take a turn to organise and lead an act of worship for the rest of the school that is related to their specific class's Christian Value.

Monitoring, Recording and Evaluating Acts of Worship

Individual acts of worship are planned according to the school's assembly timetable. Having led the act of worship, staff will discuss with the children what they have learnt from the assembly, make a note of successes and areas to be developed in the future.

The Collective Worship Leader and the Incumbent will meet termly to discuss the strengths and areas for development of collective worship and make future plans.

Annual reviews of the school's collective worship take place at the end of the academic year, led by the Head Teacher.

Health and Safety

All acts of worship take into account health and safety requirements as set out in the school's health and safety policy.