

# BENTLEY ST PAUL'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



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

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## POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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### **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All children attend the daily Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by their parent/guardian.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	9.15	Head teacher/deputy head teacher/Rector Mark James/BSCWT
Tuesday	2.30	Visiting Church Team assembly (Open the Book)
Wednesday	11.00	KS1 assembly and hymn practice (KS2 in classes)

Thursday	9.15	KS2 assembly and hymn practice (KS1 in classes)
Friday	2.15	Good work assembly

The act of worship will be based on:-

Half termly themes based on 'Values for Life'

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.

At specific times throughout the school year, celebrations of worship are held at Bentley St. Paul's church. A typical year might include three Eucharist services (Christmas, Easter, end of school year/Summer) and a Harvest Festival service, although this is subject to change. Parents, family, church members, governors and friends share in these services.

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 by appropriate members of the worship team 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 and gifts from other countries.

There is also a whole school prayer book and prayer wall, with prayers written by individual pupils that are kept in the hall as part of the focal area. Prayers are said regularly at the end of an assembly, often using these prayers as part of our collective worship. Each week, the classes take turns to compose a prayer for our weekly newsletters. These prayers are also used to close our Good Work Assemblies on Friday afternoons.

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.

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.

### **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 recorded on the school's assembly planning proforma sheets. Having led the act of worship, staff will complete an evaluation of successes and areas to be developed in the future. In addition, there will be half termly evaluations made by the SMT using the diocesan proforma, and pupils are also invited to comment using the 'Pupil Voice' proforma. All forms are kept in the Assembly Folder in the school hall.

The weekly visiting church team and BSCWT provide plans of proposed forthcoming assemblies for the year, prior to commencement. 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.

Tina Farmer  
R.E. and Worship Co-ordinator  
January 2013