

# **Bridstow CE Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **1. Rationale**

The school recognises, as with all areas of the curriculum, collective worship should be a valid educational experience, and that, as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act, the nature of the collective worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **2. Purpose of the Policy**

The school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of Bridstow and to the society and world in which we live. It is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

### **3. Guidelines**

- Unless agreed formally with parents, children will take part in some form of Collective Worship every day.
- All members of teaching staff will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship, either in a whole school or key stage context.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to take the lead in Collective Worship, and will be encouraged to contribute as often as possible.
- Clergy from St Bridget's will lead Collective Worship on a fortnightly basis (presently Wednesday morning)
- At appropriate times, members of outside organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship. These will always be briefed by senior management before worship begins.
- Themes used will relate to Christian Values that we aspire to make part of our everyday lives, cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals.
- They will also relate to the children's interests – classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be put forward in as varied a manner as possible, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will sometimes be reference made to faiths other than Christianity. Appropriate stories from other faiths will be used to illustrate aspects of faith or belief that are common to Christianity
- The act of collective worship will include the singing of hymns and songs. Opportunities will be given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Prayer will be used at key times throughout the day – collective worship, lunchtime and at the end of the day.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups. – in particular, in key stage sessions.

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- Parents will be allowed to withdraw their children from assemblies after consultation and formal agreement.

### 4. Organisation of Collective Worship

4.1 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period 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 and hymns. 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.

4.2 The current pattern for collective worship is:

Monday	<b>Worship through Song</b> Usually led by senior teachers/ head teacher, focusing upon key hymns and seasonal music.
Tuesday	<b>Key Stage Collective Worship</b> Teachers take it in turns to lead the worship at a level to suit the key stage. This may take place in the hall or a classroom.
Wednesday	<b>Collective Worship</b> Led by Clergy (from St Bridget's) or Open the Book (Alternate Weeks). Theme usually related to the Church year/ Christian festivals/current school value.
Thursday	<b>Collective Worship</b> Led by Headteacher/Deputy Head. Focused upon key Christian Values and Important Local, National and International events.
Friday	<b>Whole School Collective Worship</b> A celebration of our work, and thanks to God for the opportunities of the week. Collaborative worship with pupils/ classes/ staff.

4.3 Key services during the year will take place in St Bridget's Parish Church. These include Harvest, Easter, Christmas and Y6 Leavers' Service.

4.4 These services will be led by children from all Key Stages.

### 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the Standards & Pupils Committee with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

5.2 Monitoring also takes place using feedback from the Religious Education Monitors (2 children selected from Classes 3 or 4 with responsibility for driving the development of RE and Christian Values across the school).

5.3 We also use feedback from parents (via social media etc) to inform our acts of Collective Worship.

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### **6. Conclusion**

The time set aside for Collective Worship gives us the opportunity, as a school, to draw attention to shared values as well as allowing us to explore some spiritual, moral and aesthetic areas of experience.

Policy approved by Governing Body on .....

Signed ..... position .....

Policy due for review      October, 2018.....