

Balcombe C E (C) School



Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by Governors: May 2021

Reviewed: May 2023

Next Review: May 2025

Mission Statement

At Balcombe CE Primary School, our caring ethos and Christian values are at the heart of all aspects of school life and we believe that 'In all that we do we are guided by God'. Collective Worship at Balcombe CE School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs. It aims to encourage and give opportunities for participation and response, and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes especially of the Christian Values followed by the school. Our collective worship meets all legal requirements and reflects the Christian foundation of the school.

Aims for Collective Worship

We aim to enable our children to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's challenges and successes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Share stories taken from other faiths
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder
- Foster respect and unity
- Deepen spiritual awareness

Collective Worship Contributes to:

- An understanding of Anglican tradition: services held in the church, regular leadership by clergy, the use of Anglican prayers, songs; the importance of the Bible.
- Pupils' spiritual development: opportunities for prayer and reflection which are often developed throughout the day/week/term and in classroom settings.
- Social, moral, spiritual and cultural education, (SMSC): worship provides opportunities for particular aspects of SMSC such as opportunities to share from each other's experiences, to hear about charity projects and overseas links, for pupils to lead and share with each other in expressing their spiritual lives and understanding.
- Citizenship: giving pupils the chance to make a difference.

The Programme of Themes for Collective Worship

The Headteacher, is responsible for drawing up the themes for collective worship on a termly basis. Themes relate to our school values, the church year, Bible teaching, the school year, celebrations, festivals of faiths other than Christianity and programmes of study in RE.

Leadership and Weekly Pattern

The week is structured to comply with the legal requirement to provide a daily act of worship. The Headteacher is responsible for the coordination of the acts of worship, including ensuring that visitors are welcomed and briefed.

Collective worship takes place each week as follows:

Monday – whole school – led by Headteacher

Tuesday – whole school – Open The Book /Rector

Wednesday – whole school – singing led by teacher

Thursday – class based - led by teacher

Friday – whole school – celebration led by Headteacher or Mr Evans, parents invited

Content

Our acts of worship are opportunities to learn about the nature of God and to develop an understanding of how to live by our values.

We do not seek to reinforce religious beliefs but to find areas of shared values to explore and celebrate and we look to affirm the values and ideals we care about as a school. These acts of collective worship serve as a reminder of the school as a community, fostering good personal and social attitudes. We also aim to promote a sense of belonging and encourage a reflective and meaningful response to life.

We use a variety of methods to explore each theme to ensure that assemblies are stimulating and thought provoking, varied in content, presentation and approach.

Our methods include the use of:

- Drama/role play
- Artefacts
- Music
- Pictures
- Words
- Pupils
- Stories from a range of sources

Content is delivered to ensure high engagement and opportunity for reflection and learning.

Resources

A variety of resources are used to stimulate thought and discussion. These are drawn from the internet, school library, personal library, published collections/schemes and real life.

Special Occasions

There are particular school celebrations held in church every year i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and School Leavers' service. The wider community are invited to attend these and also some key events held in school e.g. the end of the Summer Term assembly.

Continual Professional Development and Guidance for Visitors

Acts of worship are regularly led by visitors including local ministers and groups from the community. All teachers lead Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of collective worship on the whole school community is monitored by pupil voice. Other methods include questionnaires sent to parents and children, and discussion about specific acts of worship. Governors also monitor the impact of collective worship and attend assemblies and conference with pupils. The evaluation of this monitoring is fed into the school's Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) self-evaluation toolkit.

Inclusion and Parental Right to Withdrawal

Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in worship and benefit from that experience. A variety of Christian songs and teachings from the Bible are used. A variety of multicultural material is also drawn upon to encourage learning, respect and understanding.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from religious and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Headteacher and the Chair of the Governors before requesting their child is withdrawn.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.