



**Beverley Minster**  
C.E. Primary School

## **Policy Statement for Collective Worship**

### **Mission Statement**

**Our vision is, 'Foundations for life, for all to flourish.'** In our school, we want the children to grow in knowledge and understanding and to be happy, confident and caring people. We will help them to achieve their potential, to make informed choices, to respect the beliefs and lifestyles of other people and to care for their environment, within a supportive Christian community.

**Our distinctive Christian ethos promotes a safe, happy, healthy and nurturing environment. We strive for excellence to develop the potential of all.**

**We empower our children with the confidence to become life-long learners and to play a positive role in their community. As a Church of England school, we aim to serve our community by providing a high-quality, inclusive education within the context of Christian beliefs and practices.**

### **Rationale**

Collective worship is part of the educational provision of the school and underpins all aspects of school life. It is an entitlement for all pupils except for those whose parent(s) / carer(s) have exercised their right of withdrawal. The school aims through worship to meet the legal requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England.

### **Aims**

**Our Collective Worship aims to provide opportunities for members of our community to:**

- worship God
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- explore the school's key Christian values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community;
- encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer;

- help children discover their place in the world.

### **In summary within our daily act of collective worship, we aim to**

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- celebrate all that is good and beautiful and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive;
- provide opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the darker side of life;
- ensure that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space;
- illustrate forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development, e.g. silent contemplation, dance, singing;
- provide a rich variety of forms of expression, e.g. art, drama, music, story and give children the opportunity to experience these at their own level rather than teachers imposing their own interpretations;
- provide worship in an environment that is conducive to worship, which is professionally coordinated and properly resourced;
- share resources within the Christian tradition
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level. (National Society Web site, 2007)

### **Purposes**

- Through collective worship we seek to encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and to promote Christian Values and the experiences it offers.
- To encourage spiritual response within all pupils.

### **Guidelines**

- Collective Worship must be approached in a planned and professional way in order to be meaningful and worthwhile aspect of school life for all pupils.
- Themes throughout the year provide continuity, relevance and coherence. A list of themes will be given to the staff and visitors by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. Year groups will keep a weekly record of ideas used in order to develop these themes.
- Themes take into account the seasons of the Church year, religious festivals and feast days, the life and teachings of Jesus and social and moral issues as well as those which extend and develop the pupils' sense of community both local and global.
- Collective Worship can be in whatever grouping the school wishes i.e. teaching groups, Key Stages, etc. but not specific religious groups.
- Collective Worship must take place in the school premises. Any act of collective worship held off the premises is in addition to the statutory act of collective worship.
- In Collective Worship we take into account family background, age and aptitude of the pupils.

## **The Shape of Collective Worship.**

Collective worship should provide opportunities for participants to **gather, engage** and **respond** in a **variety** of ways, grounded in distinctively Christian teaching. Using the language of Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending is a practical and helpful way to plan collective worship.

Everyone involved in delivering Collective Worship must consider the following.

### ***Gathering***

A distinctive atmosphere and a clearly visible focus point are important. There should be a feeling of expectation as people gather for worship. We gather together and greet each other. We all come to play a part in this community. We are preparing to meet with God.

*Think about... How is the room arranged? How are people greeted? Does everyone know their role?*

### ***Engaging***

This may be the main part in an act of worship. In a Church school, it should encourage children to engage with the Bible, Christian teaching, and most importantly, with God. We engage with the big things and the little things in life. We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We are listening for God's message to us.

*Think about... How will you share the message? From the Bible? God's people in history? God's people today? What strategies will you use? Will you use your own experience or current events?*

### ***Responding***

For every child and adult present, some response should be possible. All should understand that this is time set aside for deep thought and for each to respond in an appropriate way. We respond to what we have heard and seen. We respond together and as individuals. We are given the opportunity to worship God.

*Think about... Will you spend time thinking or reflecting? Will you pray? Will you do something practical as a response? How?*

## **Organisation**

As the school has limited space, it is not always possible to get the whole school into the Hall. Cross-phase acts of worship will take place in the hall in Monday mornings and will be led by the Head teacher. On other days, acts of worship will be in Year groups or Key Stages.

The time and venue will be allocated by the collective worship co-ordinator according to the needs of the year group and to facilitate any visiting speakers.

Visitors who are invited to lead an act of worship must be approved by the Head teacher and school management team and be briefed on theme and organisation, the number/age of the children and where the worship will take place.

Young Worship leaders are regularly encouraged to plan, organise and deliver collective worship to all pupils.

### **Resources**

The school has a selection of books and other materials to support collective worship across all key stages.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

#### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out by the head teacher/worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet. Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held regularly.

In Beverley Minster CE Primary School this will occur regularly on termly cycle.

#### **Evaluation**

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the head teacher and foundation governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually as detailed in the school improvement plan and collective worship action plan.

#### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture, gender or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

#### **Responsibilities**

It is the ultimate responsibility of the head and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place.

#### **Conclusion**

Collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements but at Beverley Minster C of E Primary School we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter

**March 2019**

**Worship Co-ordinator**

**Rachel Hatter**

**Governor responsible for collective worship**

**Jonathan Baker**