



Beverley Minster Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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Name of Responsible Committee/Individual:	Local Governing Board
Implementation Date:	Summer 2025
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Target Audience:	Parents, carers and staff
Related Documents: All Trust policies and procedures referred to are located on the trust website, www.theeducationalliance.org.uk . If English is not your first language, and you require assistance/translation, please contact the HR Department. This policy has been equality impact assessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Behaviour Policy- Equality Policy- SMSC Policy  - T-EF EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Respect, Friendship and Perseverance and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. *We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this*¹

Therefore Collective Worship at Beverley Minster CE Primary School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head Teacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. If parents wish to withdraw their child from daily worship, they must contact the Head Teacher and discuss their needs. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

¹ CEEO Guidance for Collective Worship (2021) <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%202018052021.pdf>

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Beverley Minster Church of England Primary School is committed to ensure that every child will benefit from Collective Worship. Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds and world views as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Collective worship at Beverley Minster Church of England Primary School provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and world view and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. Pupils will therefore be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating is 'invitational' and worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting three candles. We welcome everyone to our worship and say, *'Peace be with you'*.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of collective worship and each class will lead a collective worship to parents at least once a year.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Head Teacher.

Our School Prayer

God Our Father,

I've come to say,

Thank you for your/my love today,

Thank you for my family

And all the love you give to me,

Guard me in the dark of night

And in the morning, send your light,

Amen

Rhythm for Collective Worship

Welcome

We all gather together to play a part in our collective worship community. We use the greeting, 'Good morning/afternoon, peace be with you'. The whole community respond to this by saying, 'Good morning/afternoon, good morning/afternoon everyone; peace be with you.

- We light the three candles

Welcoming each other into the space sets the tone for the rest of the session.

Learning/Engaging

This element of Collective Worship is the time when new possibilities or different perspectives are opened up. This can take the form of drama, singing, visual images, poetry, children acting or videos that are linked to Biblical stories or other texts.

Reflecting

The reflection element of Collective Worship encourages everyone to consider how the Bible story or similar stimulus has resonated with, or challenged them. Questioning is often a useful way of teasing out children's thoughts and understanding, with often periods of silence. It can also be a chance for children to talk to each other and feedback ideas.

Responding/Sending

The final element of our worship provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present to step out and play their part in making a difference in the world. It is within this that we also pray to offer thankfulness, ask for strength etc., including the use of our school prayer, the Lord's prayer or a prayer linked to today's worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held 4 days a week. Our pattern for collective worship is usually as follows:

Monday: Whole School worship led by the Head Teacher that reflects our vision and values

Tuesday: Whole School worship with reflection on worship through music and singing, led by the music coordinator

Wednesday: Whole school worship led by either staff from Beverley Minster or a teaching staff member from our school (often with the children supporting this). This worship usually includes the pattern of the church's year.

Thursday: Class worship

Friday: Whole school celebration of achievements reflecting our vision and values.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Head Teacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Head Teacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Staff from Beverley Minster are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Singing a New Song

Singing in worship, singing praise to God, is part of many religious traditions, though not all, and is clearly commended in the Bible, where the whole creation is envisaged as singing God's praise, to 'sing a new song', and believers are encouraged to sing hymns and spiritual songs. In the Book of Psalms in the Bible, people are encouraged to "Sing to the Lord a new song" (Psalm 149.1).

Singing in Collective Worship brings the whole community together, adults and children in a single activity.

It can be enjoyable and uplifting and its role might be defined as:

- providing an opportunity for an active offering of worship, a response to God, from both the individual and the community.
- bringing worship alive, enabling everyone to enjoy it and have fun
- sending participants on their way rejoicing and with a sense of purpose

As with all of our collective worship, we use the following rhythm:

Welcome: with our greeting and light three candles;

Engaging: by learning a new song and talking about the words to understand the meaning and reflect on the children's favourite parts or more meaningful lines.

Responding: by being at peace and being invited to join in with a prayer.

Sending: we use a leaving song, sometimes from the world church, maybe in another language, to send pupils on their way.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a yearly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. These are shared with our ethos committee and during local governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).