

Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

‘Let Your Light shine to all’ (John Wesley)

Through exciting opportunities in lessons and the wider curriculum our children become well rounded, caring changemakers in our world. Each child is at the heart of all we do to ensure they become the best they can be and are meant to be.

Vision

‘For with God nothing is impossible’ (Luke1:37)

As a truly distinctive Methodist school our vision is to be a Welcoming, Worshipping, Witnessing presence in the village and the community. At Burscough Bridge children thrive, emotionally, spiritually and academically to be the person God intended them to be; a school that the Methodist Church and the local community can take great pride through.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTENT

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian and Methodist identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values; Respect, Love, Trust, Forgiveness, Perseverance and Hope and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Methodist Church and Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of 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.

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship.

Collective worship, in recognising the collectively of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values. Collective Worship should be: “Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges

- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

We aim to ensure that collective worship:

Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

- Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, drama, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican & Methodist worship and festivals.

- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding.

- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

THE ANGLICAN & METHODIST CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance

- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days

- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer.

- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern

- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

- Using Psalms with simple responses

IMPLEMENTATION

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the Reverend of our local Methodist church and external visitors in consultation with the

collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

We meet every morning at 9.00am either as a whole school, Key Stage or we will have collective worship in our classes. We start most days with our collective worship as we believe it sets the tone for the rest of the school day and puts our Christian ethos at the very heart of what we do and who we are. Teachers and children are present and it is a special time for the school community. The Head teacher starts and finishes each school week with collective worship.

Each half term, we have a new theme for our collective worship. The themes include our Christian Values and a range of other ideas relevant to our children's experiences. Our themes can also be responsive to what is happening in the wider world. There is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Worship usually follows the following pattern:

On Mondays, we meet together as a whole school community. This is led by the Headteacher or in her absence, another member of the staff team.

On Tuesdays, we gather as a whole school alternating fortnightly between Reverend Michael Tindsley or occasionally another visiting speaker and our children who lead the whole school worship

On a Wednesday, the whole school joins together once again for Prayer and Praise Worship. As a Methodist school, worship through singing is very important to us and the weekly theme is explored through hymns and prayer. This is led by the class teachers.

On a Thursday classes have a British Values themed Collective Worship where children explore local or national events. Led by class teachers

On a Friday morning, we celebrate all that has happened during the week as a whole school. We sing Happy Birthday, share schools news and certificates are awarded for learning, friendship and for demonstrating our Christian Values.

During all of our daily collective worship sessions, we refer to our school motto- ‘Let You Light Shine’ and also reflect on John Wesley's Rule. Our children are regularly involved in leading different aspects of our worship including lighting the candle, singing, prayer and opportunities for quiet reflection. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)

• Engage – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)

• Respond – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)

• Send – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the teaching staff in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS

Pupils are given opportunities to plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with their class teacher and teaching assistants during Thursday or lunchtimes to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

DEVELOPING WORSHIP, The Head teacher and all teaching staff take part in and are able to access a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging, including MAST training.

IMPACT

Children have been instrumental in deciding our school Christian Values and mission and vision statements for our school.

Our Christian and Methodist ethos permeates all school life and can be witnessed daily in all members of the school in actions and words.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

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. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through, Head teacher drop-in sessions, social media outlets, newsletters, suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are

reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared during full governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN VOLUNTARY AIDED AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Methodist Church

- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils each day engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church

- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Review

Policy Reviewed: November 2026
Policy to be reviewed: November 2027 or earlier if required