



Bladon C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy (C13)

Date: November 2016

Review date: November 2019

Authorised by:

Approved by:

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(Tracey Fletcher, Head Teacher)

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(Ray Banks, Chairman of Governors)

Introduction:

At Bladon Church of England Primary School, worship is an important part of the School day and it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in School are very welcome to join in.

At Bladon C of E Primary School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our student's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and to engage in the Christian distinctiveness of our School.

Aims:

It is our aim at Bladon School that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the School community
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value of human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the School, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members of the School community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- Provide members of the School community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the School community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Provide members of the School community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Legal Status of Collective Worship:

In 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups, though it usually takes place as a whole-school assembly. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship rests with the Headteacher who co-ordinates Collective Worship in the School.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any Christian denomination. By broadly Christian we mean that –

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, Eg. The Sermon on the Mount
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at the School take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Headteacher and Governors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the School from a particular non-Christian faith background, although at present, this is not necessary.

The School recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc. There is at least one act of Collective Worship each day, usually two.

Rights of Withdrawal:

We seek to be in an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. The School expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintain statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in our School. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation:

Day	Person Leading
Monday	Head/Other Teacher
Tuesday	Class Teacher
Wednesday	Church ~ Vicar or Curate
Thursday	Whole School Singing
Friday	Headteacher

Planning, Recording and Evaluation:

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

School Governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship at the School.