



Collective Worship Policy

Start date: Autumn 2018

Review date: Autumn 2021

At St.Bartholomew's, Collective Worship is viewed as an integral part of the school's daily routine. Through this and our distinctive Christian character the school aims to achieve our vision: *We are excited about life and learning and dare to chase our dreams.*

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and challenges) together. As a Church of England Aided School our Collective Worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominationally biased. Our worship is based on promoting the distinct Christian character of the school through the understanding of Christian values. We are sensitive to the diversity of beliefs and points of view within our school community, allowing individuals to respond as individuals. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are highly valued.

Christian Values

We blend Christian teaching and values education, in order to create opportunities for children to develop spiritually, emotionally, socially, and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is supported by a developing emotional intelligence. Our use of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought and apply this in all aspects of their school life, i.e. through our behaviour code.

We live and learn together through our BARTS values, expressing God's love in all that we do:

Believe Achieve Respect Trust Succeed = BARTS

Legal Requirements for Collective Worship

The most recent legal statement of the requirements for collective worship (as distinct from assembly) is contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. These build on similar requirements in Section 346 of the Education Act 1996, the Education Reform Act 1988, and Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act, where the law on compulsory collective worship began. It outlines the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.

We acknowledge the fact that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Planning and Themes of Collective Worship

The themes for our collective worship are planned termly by the Collective Worship Subject Leader and are based on the Values for Life document and Roots and Fruits Documents. In planning alongside the Youth and Children's Minister the subject leader takes into account any major festivals/events in the Church calendar and appropriate current world events such as Children in Need week.

An outline of the term's themes by week, are linked to relevant Biblical references. Then ideas for leading class worship added (to support teachers). The outline is forwarded to the Music co-ordinator and Children's Worker from St Bartholomew's Church. (Which is then shared with the Parish Rector), who select hymns that reflect and enhance the pupil's understanding of the theme.

The large display board in the front reception is a visual representation of the school's BARTS values linked to Biblical theology. There is also a Collective Worship board in the hall which is designed by the Collective Worship leader to be interactive, so each week a different year group has the responsibility to add to the display. This usually takes the form of short prayers or reflections.

Collective Worship at St Bartholomew's

Worship is an integral part of St Bartholomew's and allows both staff and pupils the opportunity to reflect and worship in a variety of gatherings:

Mondays: *Whole School Worship.* Whole school celebration worship led by the Headteacher. The theme is introduced and explained and is supported by a Biblical story and a memory verse for the children. This worship session still follows the acknowledged liturgy of a Christian worship.

Tuesdays: *Class Worship.* Teachers are required to run their own 15minute class worship session at some point during the day. Class worship is physically signalled as being separate from a lesson by the rearrangement of sitting (where room allows most sit in a large circle) and a candle is lit to signal the beginning. Class worship allows for personal reflection on the theme as well as a sharing of prayers written by the pupils themselves, and discussions based on the themes.

Wednesdays: *Church Worship.* The whole school walks over to St Bartholomew's Church for a collective worship session led by either the Rector or the Headteacher and Youth and Children's Minister. These worship sessions follow the liturgy of a Christian service and allow pupils to be actively involved in the Biblical references to our value foci.

Thursdays: *Key Stage Worship.* The foci of Monday worship sessions are the same across all key stages, but content is differentiated appropriately for the age of the pupils. The relevant Phase Leader guides these assemblies and uses the worship session to build upon the theme. They make links to the memory verse and children get the opportunity to share how they have seen an impact of the worship theme. It is also a celebration of behaviour, work and attitudes for some children across the week.

Fridays: *Singing Worship.* The whole school gathers to worship together in the school hall with an increased focus on worship through song. We use this as hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by the Headteacher and Youth and Children's Minister from St Bartholomew's Parish Church.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school to lead worship.

Our daily worship session all follow the accepted Christian liturgy.

- Worship begins with the children entering the hall/church accompanied by a piece of music for the week. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments. (Music may not universally apply to class based worship on Thursdays).
- Candles are lit and acknowledged.
- Worship sessions will usually include a least two hymns/Christian songs.
- The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer/blessing.
- The end of a worship session is signalled with the candles being blown out.

Prayer and Reflection at St Bartholomew's

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. Prayers are also routinely used at other times in the school day.

A range of prayers are used in worship:

- the Lord's Prayer,
- the St Bartholomew's school prayer,
- prayers written by the children,
- At the beginning of the lunch hour a class grace is used,
- the end of the school day BARTS (core values) prayer

Other World Faiths

Although our collective worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to teaching the children that they live in a culturally diverse world. Through the teaching of World Religions in the RE curriculum and by modelling our own values around the school we demonstrate tolerance and understanding regardless of religious beliefs.

Impact, Evaluation and Monitoring

The Collective Worship subject leader maintains a Collective Worship file, recording details of worship across the school. Any evaluation will be recorded in here. Pupil voice is also incorporated into the evaluation of Collective Worship through the completion of anonymous questionnaires. Training for Collective Worship occurs for all new teaching staff during their first term and is available for those who wish to update their skills/knowledge.

Signed by:



The chair of governors

Date: 04/09/2018



Headteacher

Date: 04/09/2018

This document will be reviewed every three years