



*‘Be the best you can be; together we grow from acorns
to oaks, flourishing in God’s love’*

Trust, Friendship, Respect, Forgiveness, Courage, Truthfulness

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Policy Lead
Committee:**

Local Academy Committee

In consultation with:

Approved by:

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1. Policy Statement

At Bream C of E School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision.

It is a time where we come together to explore our beliefs, worship God, develop community spirit and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, clergy and other visitors are valued highly. Worship is led by staff, clergy, children and other special visitors throughout the year.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and children. However, in Bream C of E the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

"Worship in (CofE) schools promotes theological and Religious Literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy and hope"

Through Collective Worship children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Children will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

2. Aims and Guiding Principles

This school follows the guiding principles highlighted in the document: Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021

Collective worship at Bream C of E aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support all children and adults to flourish spiritually.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is inspired, challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.



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- Provide an inspirational experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be inclusive and invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support children in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey. Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, through inviting children to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introducing them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Children will be offered the opportunity to be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure children understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

3. Christian Values

Our core values are respect, courage, truthfulness, trust, forgiveness and friendship. These values are embodied in our daily worship and school ethos, as well as being embedded throughout our curriculum alongside our vision.

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education within our worship in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

4. Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.



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There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all children, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant.

Worship in Bream C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions. The trustees/local academy committee have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework 2023, which asks 'How is collective worship enabling children and adults to flourish spiritually? They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping children and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher.

5. Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of inspirational, invitational, inclusive worship experiences for the children. Over a week, Worship events will take place focusing on the ows, wows and nows. These include; Whole school worship, Open the Book Team, Hymn Singing, Classroom Worship, Celebration Assembly.

Visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The assembly/worship lasts approximately 15-20 minutes.

Planning, content and detail are in the Collective Worship leaflet at school. This reflects our Values focus for that term, the liturgical colours of the seasons of the church year, our school ethos, vision and current events.

Our inclusive daily worship begins with reflective, thoughtful music playing while we light the three candles to represent God the father, God the son and God the Holy spirit. Children and staff are seated facing towards the focal point of the three candles. This is followed by an invitational call and response and inspiring bible story and hymn. We end each worship with a reflection time, which can focus on big questions – who, why, what? Followed by a prayer and invitational call and response.

Collective worship time in school is distinct from other classroom activities, retaining a sense of occasion and togetherness. A table is used with a cloth (liturgical colours), a cross and candles are lit to act as a focus for worship.

Collective worship is always inclusive and includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice.

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by each class.



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Our local churches are our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

6. Leadership

- The headteacher, a member of staff, a child or small group of children, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors or teams e.g. Open the Book lead our daily worship.
- The role of the local incumbent is to support and lead collective worship in partnership with the SLT on a regular basis, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year where possible and appropriate.
- The local incumbent/church is available to support leaders of collective worship to develop their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible and develop a deeper understanding of Anglican traditions and liturgy
- Our worship leaflet is given to support and as guidance to visitors leading worship.

7. Planning

- Worship is planned by members of staff daily and this reflects Anglican tradition
- All members of the school community, especially children, are invited to plan and lead acts of worship
- The range and variety of materials used, includes: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Planning provides opportunities for children and adults to explore faith in today's world
- Explores the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God
- Allows for spiritual flourishing through prayer, stillness and reflection
- Our worship reflects the cycle of the Church year
- The Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship
- Through careful planning, explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school

8. Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

Staff leading worship record, monitor and evaluate the impact of this. This is also monitored and evaluated by children, staff and foundation governors. Evidence of this shows the areas of strength and the development over time.



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9. Roles and Responsibilities

The Local Academy Committee holds overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place.

Teaching staff take on the specific responsibility for planning and leading collective worship which is done with full involvement of children and visitors.

10. Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Additionally, support and guidance are provided for visitors and the clergy who lead collective worship.

11. The Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Bream C of E Primary School there are children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view.

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the local academy committee members and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a child should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. (This means that a parent may, for



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example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

12. Development and Sharing of the Policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff, local academy committee members, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all children. This policy is available on our school website.

This policy was developed within our school, in consultation with the local clergy and local academy committee members.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document and the Diocesan Collective Worship Guidance Document.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Behaviour and exclusions
- Teaching and learning
- Working with families and the wider community
- RE

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

This policy is available on the school website: www.breamcofe.co.uk/policies.

Paper copies are available on request from the School Office.