



## Collective Worship Policy

This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices*. (For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the *Appendices* – see the individual academy website).

September 2021
Date for Next Revision – September 2022

## **Collective Worship Policy**

***“Working together for each child to realise their God-given potential to flourish”***

### **Rationale**

The Trust understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship in our academies is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the Trust and it is our aim that it is a time when the academy community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

### **Aims for Collective Worship**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and academy community to worship God;
- To enable the pupils and academy community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

For further details of an individual academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 1*.

### **Practicalities of Organisation**

Our academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

## **Content**

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an academy has chosen. Our academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 1*.

## **Resources**

For details of resources individual academies use – see *Appendix 1*.

## **Evaluation, Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 1*.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

As our academies are Church academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.



## **Blakesley Church of England Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Our vision**

**“We create the spark that lights the fire”.**

As a Church of England school at the heart of the community and in partnership with parents, Blakesley C of E Primary School is committed to enabling all pupils to achieve their full potential. It is a place where we learn how to love God, one another and ourselves and to serve the community. We will do this through developing a love of learning within a creative, dynamic and vibrant environment based on Christian values where everyone aspires to excellence.

**‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength;  
and love your neighbour as yourself.’**

Mark 12:30-31

#### **Our Values**

**Compassion** - empathy, tolerance, forgiveness, humility, kindness and care.

**Courage** - confidence, perseverance, resilience, endurance, courageous advocacy, truth and honesty.

**Fellowship** - friendship, community, koinonia, belonging, respect, inclusion and partnership.

**Wisdom** - making wise choices, self-control, tolerance and a love of learning.

**Thankfulness** - gratitude, awe and wonder, joy, generosity.

#### **Aims for Collective Worship**

In addition to the aims already stated, at Blakesley Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is at the heart of our life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to worship in both contemporary and traditional Christian styles, consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

#### **Practicalities of Organisation**

Our daily act of Collective Worship forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in Appendix 2.

A termly schedule is produced, illustrating the themes covered in Collective Worship. We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candles representing the Holy Trinity; these act as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

The Headteacher and other members of staff lead Collective Worship. Our pupil Collective Worship Leaders open our worship every Monday with our school Liturgy. Representatives from St Mary's Church Blakesley lead and contribute to our weekly worship as well as our Church services throughout the year. Services led by our pupils for Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and Pentecost are held in the Church each year. Parents, friends and members of the community are invited to join our worship at these special times of year. Our pupils also lead an annual Remembrance Service which takes place on the green outside of the school. Each child makes a large red poppy which is planted on the green. The children stand amongst the poppies during the service which is always well attended by parents and the wider community. The poppies remain on display on the green for Remembrance Day.

This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the Academy and the local church. Parents and carers are invited to Friday Collective Worship and our special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This promotes the community spirit of the Academy. We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

The Lighthouse Trust visit Blakesley and lead our Collective Worship once a term. Stories, prayers, songs and reflections are shared.

For our whole school worship on Mondays, we use learn, reflect and respond as a format for us to follow. This is visually represented through the use of windows, mirrors and doors. The symbol of the window enables us to think about our new learning or thinking, the mirror encourages us to take the opportunity to reflect on what that means for us and the door encourages pupils to consider how their new learning can be used in our lives moving forward.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each academy day. Prayer and reflective spaces are available in all classrooms, places where children can quietly reflect, access Bible stories and prayer books. Themed prayer spaces are set up around the school, prompting children to reflect and create prayers based on different themes both personal and on a global scale.

## **Content**

Each Friday, we also hold Collective Worship called 'Praise'; this focuses on praising the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in Collective Worship by sharing work that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. Praise plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, pupils are recognised for showing our school values both in school and in the wider community. Our vision and ethos means that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Collective Worship offers our community the opportunity to experience and explore their spirituality. Pupils participate in prayer and song; worship offers a time for stillness, silence and reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candles that act as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

Worship incorporates Music, Hymns and Songs, Website clips, Readings from The Bible and other sources, Stories, Drama, Stillness, Reflection, Discussion and Prayer.

All our worship includes these key elements (Appendix 2):

- An altar table with appropriate liturgical coloured cloth
- The lighting of a candle to represent, “Jesus is the Light of the world” or
- The lighting of candles to represent the Trinity
- Call and response (Leader: ‘May the Lord be with you.’ Worship community ‘And also with you.’)
- A main discussion point or story
- Silent reflection time
- Prayer
  - Blowing out of candle
- A Christian song or a song that illustrates our values

## **Resources**

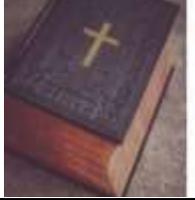
Useful websites to be used include:

[www.worshipworkshop.co.uk](http://www.worshipworkshop.co.uk)

[www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk) [www.imaginer.co.uk](http://www.imaginer.co.uk)

**Appendix 2**

Collective worship at Blakesley CE Primary School follows the following format:

Calm music is generally played as children enter the space for worship (usually the hall) or prepare themselves for collective worship in their classrooms.	
All are welcomed with a shared greeting eg Good Morning Everyone	
There is an opening call and response : Leader: Welcome to our Collective Worship. Everyone: Good morning Everyone. Leader: May the Lord be with you. Everyone: And also with you. Leader: We have come together to think about..... Everyone: Help us to Learn, Reflect and Respond	
Our Liturgy is then followed: three children present the candles, the cross and the Bible to the gathered assembly.	
	<p><i>Candles</i></p> <p>We bring in the Candles Jesus is the Light of the World</p> <p>We light the Candle Jesus's light shines on us.</p>
	<p><i>The Cross</i></p> <p>We welcome the Cross</p> <p>Jesus died for us and rose again; we thank you, Jesus</p>
	<p><i>The Bible</i></p> <p>We welcome the Bible</p> <p>It is the story of God and Jesus.</p> <p>It teaches us how to live.</p>
What are we learning about? New possibilities and different perspectives are being 'opened up'. A story may be shared or an idea illustrated through drama or an activity or demonstration by the leader.	
	
How are we reflecting on what we have learnt?	
 <p>How has the learning made you think and challenge yourself?</p>	

How are we reflecting on what we have learnt? How has the learning made you think and challenge yourself?

How are you going to respond? How are you going to 'step out' from today's worship and make a difference to yourself or others?

Prayer – children will be invited to make the prayer their own by saying Amen at the end. Sometimes children will be invited to read or recite a prayer together, e.g. The Lord's Prayer Prayers are sometimes shared that children have written themselves.



We then close the collective worship as follows:



The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

Share the peace with those sitting next to you,  
by shaking their hand and saying  
"The peace of the Lord be with you"