



St Botolph's CEP School

Collective Worship

Policy

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God.”

William Temple (1881-1894)



School Vision

As Jesus fed the five thousand, so we feed our diverse community; serving them practically and spiritually striving to meet their individual needs. We work to foster a strong sense of belonging, empowering everyone to have faith in themselves and others. By following the example of Peter stepping out of the boat, our staff and pupils will overcome challenges, develop resilience, and grow to be the best they can be. We strive to expand opportunities and widen horizons for all.

Our School Motto:

Inspired by Jesus, helping everyone to become the best they can be.

Christian Values

Respect – peace, love, forgiveness

Responsibility – community, justice, service

Resilience – compassion, courage, hope, thankfulness

Introduction

Worship is a central feature of school life at St Botolph's strengthening and supporting the distinctive Christian character of our school. Our daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by staff and governors. We reaffirm our Christian values and celebrate the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year.

Aims:

At St. Botolph's, we aim to:

- Explore a relationship with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Reflect on our explicit Christian values.
- Develop personal spirituality through prayer and reflection.
- Be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith.
- Develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values.
- Foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.



The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and readings
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saint's days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and an abridged form of the Nicene Creed
- Using simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence, and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist



Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. Daily acts of worship are held at whole-school, key stage, and individual class level; teachers take it in turns to lead the act of worship for their key stage.

All pupils take part in our weekly Eucharist service held in the school. In September, January, and April the whole school takes part in a celebration of the Eucharist at St. Botolph's Church. As well as leading our services, the local clergy are regular and welcome visitors to the school and advise us on planning a suitable programme of worship. We choose hymns and prayers that reflect the weekly theme, which is often related to the church calendar or current issues and events. Each class takes it in turn to present the prayers and



offertory for the service. Parents are invited to attend and those who are confirmed share in communion (both children and adults). Blessings are also offered.

Collective Worship at St. Botolph's strives to be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring by following the Diocesan Framework for Collective Worship and this is used as a basis for all acts of worship. The Collective Worship Lead plans the programme for each term based around these materials, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to take part by ensuring they have time to reflect, pray, sing, listen and respond to Bible readings.

Whole school worship is led by the SLT who are assisted by the Leading Lights. Class teachers lead class worship weekly and every teacher is asked to lead Phase worship on a rota basis. Therefore, everyone is involved in the delivery of Collective Worship at St Botolph's. At every Collective Worship, all children are encouraged to participate and express their own beliefs. We invite all children to pray to their God. As a school, we celebrate all faiths throughout the year ensuring every child feels valued and part of St. Botolph's.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring of the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the duty of the Head Teacher and the Governors. Evaluations are carried out by the Leading Lights at every act of worship, both formally and informally. Written evaluations are retained and used to inform practice.

Our yearly questionnaires to parents, children and staff include questions on Collective Worship and the way this is embedded into the school's ethos.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School self-evaluation is completed on the self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

The Governors have formed an Ethos Committee to focus on the SIAMS agenda.



Parental Withdrawal

We expect all pupils to attend collective worship. Any parent can request for their child to be excused from collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child, ensuring they have an opportunity to develop their spirituality, during the act of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos the Head Teacher would discuss this decision with parents.

Our Christian Vision & Values

As Jesus fed the five thousand, so we feed our diverse community; serving them practically and spiritually striving to meet their individual needs. We work to foster a strong sense of belonging, empowering everyone to have faith in themselves and others. By following the example of Peter stepping out of the boat, our staff and pupils will overcome challenges, develop resilience, and grow to be the best they can be. We strive to expand opportunities and widen horizons for all. Our core Christian values are at the heart of everything that we live and learn in our school. Respect, Resilience and Responsibility drive all of our school improvement actions, and we believe that they are the key for learning for all members of the school community.

Respect: Jesus showed respect when he fed the five thousand ensuring everyone was loved and no one went hungry. Our pupils and staff show the same love and forgiveness, working always for peace in our community, our country, and our world.

Responsibility: Pupils and staff actively serve and support the school and the wider communities in which they live and strive for justice and equality for all people. We support the community to overcome barriers just as Jesus did when he held out his hand to encourage Peter to step out of the boat, taking responsibility for ourselves and others.

Resilience: We empower the children to have faith in themselves; to overcome the barriers of life to achieve their full potential. Pupils and staff live in a positive climate of hope, showing courage, compassion, and faith in each other as Peter showed to Jesus as he stepped out of the boat. They are thankful both for the challenges they face and the blessings they receive.

We respect the different starting points and abilities of all children. Everyone matters equally. We all (children and adults) have a responsibility to be the best we can be and to fulfil our God given potential. We are resilient learners, having the courage to learn from our mistakes and we encourage self-belief and hope.





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Amy Chitty Headteacher

St Botolph's Church of England Primary School

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Appendix One - Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship

When briefing visitors who will conduct school worship, we ensure that they know:

- Who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it and if so, which section
- What the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- How long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- The current worship theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- How pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- What resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- Exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers



We also remember to:

- Give them plenty of notice - do not assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an act of worship at a few moments notice!
- Invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- Some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is to be avoided
- Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school worship programme.

And finally.... We never leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!