

BREDGAR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Collective Worship Policy

**DATED: Ratified November 2016**

**REVIEW DATE: November 2018**

## Collective Worship Policy for Bredgar CEP Primary School

“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)

### Bredgar CEP School’s Mission Statement

**We believe that we should all show respect for God, for each other and for ourselves.**



Bredgar Church of England Primary School is a caring community underpinned by a strong Christian ethos. It is our aim to help each child realise their full potential, by promoting the highest Christian and educational values in all aspects of school life.

We believe that each child must be valued as a person who has an equal right to our care, time and professional attention as a reflection of God’s love for that child.

Our purpose is to provide a secure and happy learning environment where all members of our school community are valued as individuals and where their achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Our aim is to fully develop and educate the whole child, preparing them for the future

### Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognize and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

### Aims

Collective worship at Bredgar CEP School will support the school’s Trust Deed and its Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognizing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems
- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- to reflect on their own beliefs

- to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together

### The Anglican Christian Tradition

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

- Using the Bible, either as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days including our patronal saint, St. John the Baptist#
- Using Liturgical Colours
  - Purple** - Advent and from Ash Wednesday to the day before Palm Sunday
  - White or Gold** - Christmas Day to Candlemas, Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day, fest days of saints who are not martyrs, Feast of Dedication of a church
  - Red** - Holy Week, Feast of Pentecost, between All saints' day and the First Sunday of Advent, feast days of martyrs
  - Green** - Day after Candlemas to Shrove Tuesday, day after Pentecost to the eve of All Saints' Day
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, the school agreed symbols for God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and candles
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses – Taizé style

Whilst these are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses e.g.
  - The Lord is here / *His Spirit is with us*
  - Peace be with you/ *and also with you*
  - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord / *In the name of Christ, Amen*
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Encouraging links with the worship of the local Parish Church

## **Implementation**

Collective worship is a legal requirement. Each school must provide a Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

### **How Bredgar CEP School plans Collective Worship:**

#### **Timing, groupings, venue, regular worship leaders**

Whole School Worship takes place on a Monday and Friday at 10.30am for 15 minutes. This usually takes place either in the Village Hall or Church. The worship is led on rota by all teaching staff, the Music and Worship Prefects, other volunteer children, the Incumbent, Family Trust, a representative from the Church Army, the ExCiTe group (a group of lay people linked to the local Church), the RE Governor and a representative from Kingsquad who is also a parent of the school.

Each Wednesday, the whole school meets for worship of a more musical nature at 10.30am either in the Village Hall or Church

Each Tuesday, each class will hold their own act of worship at a time of their choosing.

Each Thursday, Foundation Stage and KS1 meet for an act of worship as do KS2 classes at a time of their choosing. The expectation is that members of staff will take turns to lead the worship.

#### **Planning and leading collective worship**

The school follows the Canterbury and Rochester Diocesan themes for Collective Worship but all worship leaders are encouraged to personalise the themed plans to reflect the context and values of our school. Children should take an active part in every act of worship, such as through reading from the Bible, leading prayer and sharing their thoughts and views and in addition to this, should be involved in the planning and leadership of worship regularly and frequently. The Music and Worship Prefects plan and lead at least one worship each term and the children who attend the Kingsquad club also plan and lead an act of worship.

#### **Planning for the 4 Spiritual Styles**

The four spiritual styles which children usually engage with are:  
emotion, words, symbol and action

**Emotion:** likes singing, music, dancing, drama, looking at art,  
**Word:** formal worship, singing hymns with beautiful words, writing their own poems and prayers, hearing others read well, Biblical facts, reading themselves having had time to practice.

**Symbol:** being allowed to wonder about God, going outside to find God in nature, making or drawing things connected to their faith, looking at pictures or symbols which represent something about God

**Action:** actively participating in worship through use of puppets, talk partners, discussion for example

It is recommended to try to incorporate each style at some point during worship. Be aware which style you prefer and then make sure that you actively plan for the others as you will probably automatically incorporate your own preferred style.

Planning for stillness and silence is an important part of worship as it allows the children time to develop their own spirituality

### **Methods of record keeping and keeping evidence**

Annotation of the diocesan plans and powerpoints used in worship. Photographs of acts of worship can be kept where relevant. The Music and Worship Prefects make a simple record of whole school collective worship.

### **Allocation of budget, resources and Continuous Professional Development**

There is a collective worship cost centre held within the school's budget. This will be monitored by the collective worship coordinator. Any purchases required should be submitted via a requisition form to be considered by the coordinator and counter signed by a member of SLT.

Through the production of the Collective Worship action plan, resources and associated costs will be identified and budgeted for. The plan may also identify training needs for staff to ensure continuous professional development.

### **Cross Curricular Links**

Collective Worship is a statutory requirement and its aims are different to those linked to the National Curriculum. However, the school's curriculum is based on the Christian values and therefore there will be opportunities to make links between what the children have been experiencing in their topic learning and the associated Christian value.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Governors responsible for RE and Collective Worship will monitor acts of worship at least twice a year using the Collective Worship monitor form.

The Collective Worship Coordinator will monitor whole school, class and Key Stage Worship once a year.

Parents are invited to complete a monitoring form following a Service which will ask questions linked to the service attended as well as more generic questions linked to Collective Worship.

Children evaluate their experience of acts of worship at least twice a year. This may be in the form of a written evaluation or a verbal questionnaire held by the Music and Worship Coordinators.

**Provision for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

For children whose parents have withdrawn them from Collective Worship following a discussion with the school and written confirmation, alternative provision will be made for them whilst Collective Worship is being held. A member of staff will care for the children.

**Self-assessment and Inspection**

School Self-assessment will be completed on the SIAMS Toolkit by representatives of the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team. Worship is inspected under S48 of the Education Act.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Date of review.....  
Chair of Governors  
Signed.....  
Chair of Governors

# Appendix

## Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- 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 assembly 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
- Who will introduce them and how they will know when they are to start talking
- Any sensitivities concerning the school population such as multicultural, personal issues
- The responses that the children are familiar with

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly 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 assembly programme.

A member of staff from each class is expected to stay for collective worship to ensure that the children maintain their high standard of behaviour.