

Bilston Church of England Primary School Worship Policy

Our Vision

We will aspire through our Christian beliefs and attitudes for all children in our care to flourish both academically and personally; develop respect for others and to reach out to their local and global communities, so, 'hand in hand together with faith we will strive to achieve all things...

'I am able to do all things through him (Jesus) who strengthens me.'
Philippians 4:13

Worship is...

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.***

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Mission statement

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of Bilston Church of England Primary School Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed. As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's/academies Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St Leonard's Church in Bilston. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school/academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

*‘.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship’,*

And, that this should be,

‘.....mainly of a broadly Christian character’

Worship

Some schools have a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil’s achievements. Care should be taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil’s achievements and successes.

Here at Bilston Church of England Primary School we have worship daily either as a school, year group, and key stage or as a class. Our school prayer is the traditional Lord’s Prayer. All pupils are familiar with this.

The pupils in each class will vote for a peer within their own class whom shown the best understanding of, and demonstrated by word or deed the current core Christian value.

Each term we have a number of class assemblies to which parents/carers are invited.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. Here at Bilston Church of England Primary School this inspection will evaluate the school's/academies collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the

relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals

Aims of worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders.
- This can happen as a whole school, year group, key stage or class.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition (you need to explain how this is achieved e.g. taught Eucharist, observation of it, taking part but receiving a blessing, taught in RE lessons etc.)

- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school/academies and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately, the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Head teacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to Mrs. J Lewis. In addition all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Resourcing worship

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship (whole school, year group, key stage or class / form), so that they have ownership of it.

Our worship group meet weekly with Rev Simon Skidmore (need to add title here). Pupils are asked to apply to be part of Worship group and the post lasts for a year. As a group, they develop plans to lead worship and research suitable scripture to support our worship. They are also involved in fundraising for different charities. Increasingly they will take the lead in Worship when possible.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought. A yearly action plan, which feeds into the school development plan, is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Management of the Worship Coordinator

The Head teacher in conjunction with the Chair of Governors/Governing Body does this.

Worship themes and current practice

The worship themes for each week are based around and number of resources:

Our main resource for worship is Roots and Fruits. Each term has a new focus theme- Autumn –Love, Spring- Faith and Summer term- Peace. This alongside Roots and Fruits reflect our core Christian values of

- Friendship
- Courage
- Trust
- Truthfulness
- Service
- Forgiveness
- Generosity
- Perseverance
- Justice
- Compassion
- Respect
- Thankfulness

Alongside this, we will use other resources as appropriate to support worship.

Worship once a week is worship through song. All songs taught and rehearsed are linked to the current core Christian value. Three candles are lit representing the Trinity. Children are encouraged to join in with this. Each core Christian Value is linked to a short scripture quote- a memory verse that is learnt by the children through whole school worship.

One assembly each week is dedicated to PSHME. This will also involve a hymn and prayer.

Throughout the school year, we will also use worship as an opportunity to celebrate international, national, local and religious events.

Approved and signed off by

Headteacher/Principal.....
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Chair of
Governors.....
.....

(This should be signed off by the Head teacher/Principal and