Journeying together with God

Bramley St Peter's C of E (VA) Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Ratified by the Governing Board on 17th September 2026
To be reviewed every 2 years.
Review due September 2028

The legal requirement for collective worship

We are required by law to ensure that pupils take part in an act of collective worship each day, which is wholly or mainly Christian in character. This may take place as a whole school or key stage or individual class worship. It is the responsibility of the Governing Board, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that this daily act of worship is secured.

Aims

At Bramley St. Peter's we always seek to reflect the Christian foundation of the school in our collective worship. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and our aim is that all members of the school community feel valued and involved. The act of collective worship is an important part of our daily school routine and enables children and staff to reflect on God and the teachings of the Bible; thinking about the impact they have on their everyday lives.

Our aims for collective worship are to:

- Provide opportunities for worshipping God.
- Provide opportunities for participants to develop a closer relationship with God.
- Encourage a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, power and mystery of the world.
- Encourage resilience in the face of local and global current events.
- Encourage the development of a sense of spirituality.
- Encourage a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- Foster a sense of fellowship by bringing together pupils and staff to celebrate shared values in the school and in the community.
- Share experiences such as special occasions and events in relation to individual pupils within the school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- Enable children to develop their understanding of the Christian faith and of the teachings of the Church.
- Introduce children to the worship traditions of the Anglican Church.
- Acknowledge, understand and respect difference and diversity, recognising that we are all unique and loved by God.
- Enable children to consider moral issues.
- Give time for quiet reflection, prayer and other appropriate responses.

Worship should be a positive experience for the children, which they will want to repeat and make a part of their life. They should have the opportunity to explore different approaches to Christian worship.

Frequency

A daily act of worship is held in school and it is organised as follows:

- Monday – whole school collective worship (led by Head/Deputy/local clergy)
- Tuesday – KS2 collective worship (in the gym), FS and KS1 class collective worship
- Wednesday – FS and KS1 class based collective worship using the Picture News resource, KS2 class collective worship
- Thursday – FS and KS1 collective worship (in the gym – pm), KS2 class based collective worship using the Picture News resource
- Friday – whole school collective worship followed by a celebration assembly (led by the Head/Deputy Head or a class – each class leads a collective worship once a year)

Prayer

> "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4 v 6+7)

Prayer plays an integral role within the school. The school prayer has been written by past pupils and is displayed in every classroom. This complements the thanksgiving prayers said before lunch and at the end of the school day.

Children are encouraged to understand the significance of prayer and participate in the act of praying.

- There is a prayer tree in the entrance hall to which the children can add prayers at any time. There are prayer leaves in each classroom and by the tree itself. The prayers can be read out during collective worship if the child adds their name and leaves it in the Head's office.
- There are also opportunities for children to say spontaneous prayers at the end of some collective worships.
- There is a 'Rainbow Prayer' area upstairs. Each coloured bead represents a different aspect. A bead of a chosen colour is taken, a prayer said and then the bead is added to the main bowl.
- Children are also taught the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and are encouraged to learn it by heart (new English version). This is displayed in each classroom too.

Prayer is invitational and all pray times start with the phrase 'Let us pray.' Children are taught that prayer is an expression of worship and how they choose to express themselves is up to them. It is explained to children that prayer can be undertaken at any time, in any place, in any way. Therefore, it is acceptable to sit, kneel or stand; close eyes or keep them open; put hands together, have open palms in front of them or raise hands in the air. The choice is theirs.

Purpose and planning

Collective worship is based on Christian values and has a thematic structure over each half term. Planning is completed on a half termly basis by the Collective Worship leader (Headteacher).

The themes currently work on a 3 year cycle and the themes covered are:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Courage	Justice	Generosity
Respect	Friendship	Perseverance
Peace	Trust	Responsibility
Forgiveness	Thankfulness	Love
Compassion	Truthfulness	Prayer
Hope	Wisdom	Service

Key festivals within the liturgical church calendar are also covered. These include:

- Harvest
- Advent and Christmas
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter
- Ascension day
- Pentecost
- St Peter's Day

Each collective worship follows the same structure, GERRS (see appendix 1).

- G (Gather) – actions that happen to signify the assembling together and then the start of collective worship.
- E (Engage) – different stimuli are used
- R (Respond – Reflect) – an opportunity for children to reflect on how the learning/theme relates to them.
- R (Respond – Prayer) – an opportunity for continued reflection which involves children actively taking part in the worship
- S (Send out) – a final reflection and the end of collective worship

One collective worship in the week is held in classes and uses the Picture News resource. The key question for the week is based on current affairs and promotes discussion. Children have the opportunity to reflect on the aspect being discussed and explore their response to it. The above format is still used for this collective worship.

Friday's collective worship is followed by a time of celebration of children's achievements. There is also time given, after the act of collective worship, on most days for certificates to be distributed. These times make a valuable contribution to the development of self-esteem and mutual respect.

Whatever the theme, collective worship should offer opportunities when members of the school can:

- share
- pray
- reflect
- listen
- praise
- make positive contributions

Class teachers try to ensure that the children come into collective worship ready to listen and focus on the worship. An atmosphere of reflection is encouraged through the use of a lighted candle and a cross as a focus. The lighting and blowing out of the candle signifies the start and end of the act of collective worship. The following liturgy is also used when the candle is lit/blown out.

- (leader) Jesus says 'I am the light of the world'. (response) Let your light shine in our school.
- (leader) Peace be with you. (response) And also with you.

Music, chosen in line with the collective worship theme, is played as the children gather and leave the space.

Although collective worship usually takes place in school, we also hold special services in St Peter's Church and Bramley Baptist Church to which all parents/carers are invited. These include:

- Harvest festival
- Christmas carol service
- Lent service
- Easter service
- Year 6 Leavers' service

Evaluation

The provision of collective worship is reviewed in a number of different ways to include the views of all members of the school community.

Pupil voice is gained via pupil talks where children are asked to reflect on a number of aspects in relation to collective worship. These can include the format of collective worship, the themes, the content of the worships and the atmosphere created.

This policy will be subject to review every two years.

Attendance and right of withdrawal

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child(ren) from collective worship. However, this does not mean that the child(ren) will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life.

It is acknowledged that worship is a free response and cannot be forced on those who do not have a belief. Rather it provides an opportunity for reflection and the possibility of spiritual growth.

Reviewed Sept 2024 and Sept 2026 – R Esplin (Headteacher and RE lead)

Appendix 1

Element within the structure	Structure for collective worship at Bramley St Peter's		
	Actions (in gym)	**Actions (in classroom)**	**Reasons**
Gather	Music on as children enter the gym for collective worship	Music on as children gather for collective worship. This could be as they come onto the carpet or could just be a brief time to indicate that collective worship is about to start.	Create a reflective atmosphere and to prepare children for collective worship.
	Welcome message (Good morning everyone)	Welcome message (indicate start of collective worship = distinctly different part of the day)	Acknowledgment of people gathering together as part of a community.
	Light the candle Say "Jesus said I am the light of the world". Children respond with "Let your light shine in our school".	Put on a battery operated candle OR have a clip of a flickering candle on the screen (see below) Say "Jesus said I am the light of the world". Children respond with "Let your light shine in our school".	This signifies the beginning of collective worship and that a 'special' part of the school day has begun.
Engage	Use stimulus from planning (story/picture/film clip etc)		This links the collective worship to the current theme.
Respond (Reflect)	This is a time to ask a questions for children to think about/respond to/discuss based on the stimulus.		Opportunity for children to reflect on how the learning relates to themselves.
	From the leader, a reflection question that helps/encourages children to relate the story/learning to themselves should be asked. This should be a time/space for thinking but needs to be of a suitable length for the age of the children. This question does not need a response.		
Respond (Prayer)	Children should be invited to pray by the leader saying "Let us pray." Prayers could include ones from the prayer tree, children who volunteer to pray at the time or from the leader.		Opportunity for children to lead and actively take part in the worship. Also opportunity for continued reflection.
	Children should be reminded that this is a time of reflection and stillness. They may <u>choose</u> to bow their head (respect), put their hands together (symbol) and close their eyes (reduce distractions in order to show respect). All children should be respectful during the prayer time.		
Send out	A message to thank children for their time in collective worship. The candle should be blown out. Say "Peace be with you". The children respond with "And also with you". Some music should be played to send the children out.		Signifies the end of collective worship and the moving on to the next part of the day.