

Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2020-23

Aims and purpose

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces our school vision:

Inspire, Believe, Respect, Achieve – Together We Shine
A place where everyone matters and we happily flourish in our Christian
community

It will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of love, respect, thankfulness, friendship, responsibility and peace. At Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School is planned to:

- Be an expression of the Christian vision
- Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection and the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship and festivals
- Be a spiritual journey.
- Help understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- 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.
- Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Offer leaders of worship, including clergy, access to regular training.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- Be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith. The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Burton Leonard Church of England (VC) Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- developing inner awareness;
- understanding our world.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our school.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The children can put a prayer pebble in a basket as they enter collective worship, to pray for a particular person or situation. These are then placed by the prayer candle at the front of the hall and a quiet time of prayer and reflection is held. We also have a large screen to use visual aids to enhance the children's spiritual experience.

The Headteacher and other members of staff conduct worship; we invite local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups to conduct worship in our school. We hold services in our local church, St. Leonard's.

We have a Children's Collective Worship Committee (CCWC) who meet regularly with the head teacher to review collective worship. The children lead collective worship and prayers on a weekly basis.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and those of other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, particularly PSHE and SEAL. Our themes in school are linked with All Age Worship in St. Leonard's Church, Burton Leonard.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Parents are invited to attend our Friday Worship.

Inclusion

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming our equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive benefit from Collective Worship, meeting the needs of all. We ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

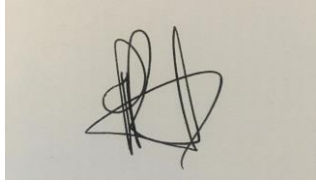
Monitoring

The impact of Collective Worship is monitored by staff, pupils, Governors and parents.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Amanda Tounson



Adopted Autumn 2020

Next review Autumn 2023