



Barlow Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

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Author : Penny Watkin

Approved : David Barnes

Staff Name	Last Open	Signature Date
Gemma Phipps	Not Yet	Not Yet
Natalie Baker	09-06-2021	09-06-2021
Heather Morton	09-06-2021	10-06-2021
David Barnes	14-06-2021	14-06-2021
Vicky Noble	Not Yet	Not Yet
Nicholas Shaw	Not Yet	Not Yet
Paul Ryan	Not Yet	Not Yet
Graeme Forth	Not Yet	Not Yet
Liam O'Connell	Not Yet	Not Yet
Sarah Colver	07-07-2021	07-07-2021
Helen McElhattan	05-10-2021	05-10-2021
Penny Watkin	Not Yet	Not Yet
Natalie Vick	Not Yet	Not Yet
Rebecca Ryan	Not Yet	Not Yet
Vicky Wilson	10-06-2021	10-06-2021
Charlotte Mawby	11-06-2021	11-06-2021

Barlow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims and practices of collective worship in school. It is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's vision statement.

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Barlow Church of England Primary School believes each individual has a voice to be valued and talents to be nurtured. We all strive to grow in wisdom together to enable each person to be their best possible self.

Our school motto is:

Learning and growing in the grace of God.'

We are committed as a staff to ensure that all children know that the grace of God is always with them as they learn and mature.

The policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Headteacher.

Rationale

Collective worship at Barlow Church of England Primary School is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school. It is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church, in accordance with the Trust Deed. Collective worship plays a key part in providing opportunities for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is also an opportunity for our school community to develop both a sense of unity and identity whilst we share and reflect on spiritual and moral issues.

Aims

Collective worship at Barlow Church of England Primary School provides opportunities to:-

- * Worship God
- * Explore, share and reflect on Christian teaching, values and beliefs
- * Learn about and consider Christian festivals and biblical materials
- * Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- * Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives
- * Reflect on the 'big questions' about life and faith
- * Help children experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- * Experience, enjoy and consider the importance of prayer, music, meditation and silence
- * Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with services in Church
- * Help children appreciate we are 'stewards' of God's world
- * Think about the needs of others within their own communities and the wider world.
- * Reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the school values
- * Develop a sense of community
- * Provide a time to celebrate various achievements of members of the community

Legal Requirement and Management of Collective Worship

The school provides an act of collective worship for all pupils every day. We acknowledge the parental right to withdraw pupils from worship on religious grounds and this is stated in the school prospectus. Any child withdrawn from collective worship would be fully supervised in another part of the school. At present no teachers exercise their statutory right of withdrawal.

Arrangements for collective worship are the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Headteacher. The collective worship coordinator has responsibility for day to day management and collective worship displays. The coordinator also keeps in touch with national and diocesan developments in school worship and supports colleagues.

Organisation

The daily act of worship is usually held in school and takes place in whole school groups. School services at Harvest, Christingle, Easter and the end of the school year take place in St. Lawrence Church and will be led by Reverend Sarah Colver. Members of our wider school community, including parents and governors are invited and welcomed to these services. Services are advertised on the school website, and other appropriate places. At the start of each term, collective worship is held in church to introduce the value for that half term. This will be led by Reverend Sarah Colver. Each class will present a service in church once a year.

Worship may be led by the Headteacher, staff, clergy, children or invited guests. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will join us for assemblies of which collective worship is a part. Revd. Sarah Colver will lead worship in school once a fortnight. A Christian performance group, 'Crackpots' lead school worship once a term.

Currently we are under lockdown restrictions. There are no services in church, no singing and services are held in class bubbles. When it is possible Mrs Watkin and Revd. Sarah, conduct a service using TEAMS. The school website has links to collective worship services, our Christian Values at home activities, prayer space ideas and the Picture News website link.

The collective worship timetable is organised as follows:-

When	Led by	Theme	Children's involvement
Monday 11.45 a.m. All staff in.	Headteacher / Revd. Sarah First Monday of each half- term in church – community invited.	Theme 1 from plan	Choose a prayer from the class boxes for Revd. Sarah or Mrs Watkin to read.
Tuesday 11.45	Staff on rota	Theme 2 Pupils will present this week's Bible Story / CWC's Worship	Children to lead this worship once a half term
Wednesday 11.45	Staff on rota	Picture News. This gives the children opportunities to learn through current news stories and develop their moral, social and cultural understanding.	Lead saying the Barlow School Prayer or the Lord's Prayer on alternate weeks.
Thursday 11.45	Staff on rota	Theme 3 from plan	Prayer from around the world
Friday	All staff	Celebration Worship Celebrating achievements Star certificates and	Write and / or read a prayer based on the week's theme. Be thinking about your worship for the last week of half term.

		values certificates given out	
<u>Seeing Anew</u>			
<u>Class worship in church</u>			
<u>Collective Worship Crew Daily Responsibilities</u>		Set up the Collective Worship hall with:	
The cloth on the table, prayer book, Big Questions box,		Remembrance stones, cross, Image of Jesus	
A greeting and sending At the beginning of Daily Worship the candle is lit and we say together:			
<i>"We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world."</i> The hymn / song of the week			
The Lord's Prayer		The Grace prayer	
The Barlow C of E School		Prayer	
Prayer from around the world			
Choose and play suitable music to set mood and create a worshipful atmosphere. Choose a child from a different year group each day who has contributed, listened well and joined in to blow out the candle. At the close of Worship as the candle is put out we say: <i>"Even though this candle is out, we still remember that God is always with us."</i>			
Turn the music on as the children leave.			

Collective worship on Monday follows the 'Christian Values for Life' scheme and each half term focuses on one of the key Christian values of courage, generosity, trust, forgiveness, justice, thankfulness, compassion, friendship, truthfulness, service, respect and perseverance. A display in each class supports and shares the chosen half-termly Christian value. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday worship follows the themed planner which is based around the Christian year and current affairs. Friday's 'Stars of the week' is a celebration of children's achievements and makes a valuable contribution to the development of self esteem and mutual respect. As well as star certificates, a certificate is also awarded focusing on one of our core values.

Purpose and Planning

Collective worship is integral to the life of our school community, and it is our aim that each act of worship should be of the highest possible quality providing opportunities for pupils to reflect on spiritual issues.

The themes are planned carefully around the Christian year and a wide range of different faith celebrations.

Leaders try to ensure that worship is appropriate and accessible to all children. Each act of collective worship includes opportunities to share, pray, reflect, listen, praise and make positive contributions.

Children's contributions to collective worship in school are sought through the Collective Worship Crew where children are involved in supporting, planning and delivering content based around the value for the half-term. In each act of worship children are given the opportunities to respond to experiences offered. Children may also be involved in reading from the bible, creating a powerpoint or leading prayers.

Currently we are under lockdown restrictions and children remain in their bubbles. Where possible, children take turns to lead the worship and set up the room for the service.

Key Elements of Collective Worship in School

Atmosphere is very important in creating the right foundation for collective worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the collective worship time are expected. The blinds on the hall window are lowered to help create a distinct atmosphere and a candle is lit as a focal point. Music is played at the beginning and end of the worship time. The Collective Worship Crew choose the piece of music and are responsible for setting up the CD player and playing/stopping the music. When the children are settled, the collective worship crew put up a greeting for the children to respond to and on leaving they respond to the Sending.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of collective worship. Bible stories are explored. Other stories of a religious or secular nature may also be used whilst personal anecdote from children, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to reflect on moral and spiritual issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure. Currently we are under lockdown restrictions and singing is not permitted.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, The Grace, prayers from Christian traditions around the world, children's prayers and the Barlow School prayer may be used. The meaning of prayers and why prayers are said is explored and we aim for all our children to be familiar with the Lord's Prayer and its meaning. All members of the school community are encouraged to use the school prayer box. A box for the children to write 'big questions' is also available in the hall. Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible. Longer passages may be used as readings.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama and demonstration.

Seeing Anew

Collective worship is constantly changing and evolving and 'Seeing Anew' is a major part of that. This involves reshaping current practice and encouraging children to think and respond differently whether this be changing the venue, layout or giving children something tangible to represent big ideas being discussed allowing them to continue the exploration of the theme with their families.. This is planned by pairs of teachers and happens twice each term.

Records and Assessment

Themes for collective worship are noted on the termly planner, a copy of which is displayed in the staffroom and emailed to everyone leading worship in school.

Evaluation of collective worship is carried out by the coordinator, headteacher or teaching staff during staff meeting time. This focuses on:

- * checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- * observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest.
- * feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- * comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- * the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- * reviews of self-evaluation/comments by the teacher and/or observer

Staff meetings are also used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary. Collective worship training may be delivered by the coordinator or Diocesan advisor.

Equal Opportunities

Equality of opportunity is promoted. Everyone within the school is equally valued, treated with equal respect and concern and the needs of each are addressed. All pupils have equal opportunity

to take part in collective worship and to benefit from the experience. Our collective worship crews are chosen from all children in key stage two and it is a much sought after role.

Diversity and Equality

Collective worship at Barlow Church of England Primary School offers opportunities for children to develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards all people, whether they are different from or similar to themselves. A variety of material celebrating diversity of skin colour, different physical abilities, physical features, culture, language and religion is available in school and used in collective worship to challenge stereotypes and promote positive attitudes.

Collective worship also encourages children to explore and reflect on Christianity around the world. Worship in school is always framed within a Christian context but there are opportunities to explore stories and festivals from the major faiths. It is an aim within the school to foster understanding and respect for people with different faiths and no faith.

Appendix

Resources for Collective Worship

School Bible - Lion Storyteller Bible
School Prayer Book – Lion Treasury of Children's Prayers
Where in the World? Martin Payne
Other Bibles, books of religious stories and prayers
Prayer box and prayer cards
Roots and Fruits collective worship values resource
A selection of CDs with religious and other appropriate music from around the world
CD player
A selection of visual symbols used as focus for reflection
A selection of Christian artefacts
A selection of artefacts from other major World Religions