

# The Batt C of E Primary School



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## **Collective Worship**

Date Written/Reviewed: July 2023

Date for next review: July 2025

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### Collective Worship Policy



#### **Rationale**

The Batt School is a Church of England Aided school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. Most Collective Acts of Worship are attended by all children and staff. Visitors in school, including parents, are very welcome to join in. Collective Worship is planned around our school vision;

#### **Love Everyone, Love the Adventure of Learning**

The Batt is an inclusive and nurturing school, guided by Christ's teaching on **love** through the parable of the Good Samaritan. We enable everyone in our community to flourish by encouraging supportive **friendships**, **respect** for self and others and **perseverance** in all things. This develops a life-long love of learning and commitment to service.

#### **'Love your neighbour, as you love yourself' Luke 10:27**

#### **Legal Requirements**

*"Worship will be - appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils, - provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders."  
(DFES)*

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the religious character of our Academy as part of the ODST Corporation of Schools. Acts of Collective Worship may include the whole school meeting together or individual classes or groups, at any time of the school day.

#### **Aims**

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are:

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature
3. Collective worship is Educational

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural**

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in school and the wider community.

## **Inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. We therefore welcome students and staff of all faiths. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be invitational and appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

## **Educational**

Our acts of collective worship will aim to provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our school vision, 'Love Everyone, Love the Adventure of Learning' and our school values of love, friendship, perseverance and respect.
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues in life and the wider world;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other main school events, including scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

## **Organisation**

The responsibility for arranging collective worship in our school rests with the Head of School and is structured throughout the week in the following way:

<b>Monday</b>	Whole School Collective Worship, Led by a Member of the St Mary's Church Ministry Team
<b>Tuesday</b>	In Class Collective Worship, Led by Class Teacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Whole School Collective Worship, Led by Head of School
<b>Thursday</b>	Hymn Worship, Led by Music Lead
<b>Friday</b>	'Together in Achievement' Celebration Assembly Led by Head of School

Collective Worship will always begin with 'Peace Be With You' and the lighting of the candle in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with a structure of 'Gather, Engage, Respond, Send'.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants are required to attend at least one Collective Worship per week.

### **Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

At the beginning of each term, the content of Collective Worship is planned by the Head of School alongside members of the Ministry Team. The worships planned are Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring, following the Church calendar. The key thread throughout all worship is our school vision of 'Love Everyone Love the Adventure of Learning' and our school values of love, friendship, perseverance and respect, underpinned by theology. Worship may be embedded through rituals such as stories and readings, songs, hymns and music, prayer and meditation/creative silence, artefacts and students' contributions. This pattern is flexible, as on occasions it is recognised that teachers and regular visitors may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

There are opportunities to evaluate Collective Worship regularly. The school Governors and the Rector have a role to monitor Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage children to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. A 'Worship Council' is formed each term to enable children to have opportunities to take part in planning, leading and evaluating worship within school.

### **Rights of withdrawal**

The right of withdrawal was established in the Education Act 1944, re-enacted in the Education Reform Act 1988.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents are asked to discuss the matter with the Executive Headteacher or Head of School in the first instance.

If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship then the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from collective worship, unless the student is lawfully taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.