



Bickerstaffe CE School

Love each other as I have loved you...

John 15:12 from The Vine and the Branches

*Love life

*Love learning

*Love each other

Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

As a Church of England School our Christian vision is central to all we do. Our mission statement, Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you...", motivates us to foster loving and caring relationships throughout our school and beyond. He inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for Excellence in all that we do; celebrating life in all its fullness.

Our values of truthfulness, peace, compassion, kindness, justice, respect, humility, thankfulness, perseverance, friendship, forgiveness and love underpin our approach to Collective Worship. Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school community meets together for Collective Worship and there are other times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. sports notices, distribution of certificates. Sometimes assembly will follow immediately after collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship: Explore, Encounter, Experience...

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To explore a sense of the sacred and allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that is of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To offer pupils a chance for reflection and quiet approach to the school values of truthfulness, peace, compassion, kindness, justice, respect, humility, thankfulness, perseverance, friendship, forgiveness and love
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and the Bible
- To explore ideas about God and a personal relationship with God

- To enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles
- To introduce the children to the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and saints days.
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day providing opportunities to experience quiet and stillness
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a contemporary school Christian community
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc.
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which might include praise, forgiveness and intercession.
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared Christian values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment and our local, national and international community.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act:

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- The character of the worship must be in accordance with the original foundation and trust deed.
- Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school.
- Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Head Teacher after consultation with the Governing Body and the Vicar.
- Acts of worship are Christian in character reflecting the traditions of Christian belief, and have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of pupils recognising the vulnerability of children.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. (This should be in writing).
- Schools must make adequate provision for pupils who are withdrawn.
- Collective worship is not 'curriculum time', and does not constitute religious education, but it ought to enhance it.

At Bickerstaffe Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is based on the belief that our school has a Church of England foundation and that we will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. It also makes a unique contribution to the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian education we provide.

Our Mission Statement from John 15:12 states "Love each other as I have loved you". The whole school community are fully aware of this statement and aim to build their lives upon it. Worship permeates everything we do as Jesus Christ is central to our faith. Parents are made aware that the school is a Church of England school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition. The Christian ethos and foundation of the school are made aware to staff through adverts for jobs and on their appointment. We endeavour to send all staff on specific training provided by the Diocese for all new to teaching in a Church of England School (budget allowing). We promote the development of our School leader through Diocesan leadership training which we believe is good succession planning.

Jesus said, "Love each other as I have loved you.."

(John 15:12)

Ingredients for Effective Worship:

- The Bible as a source for inspiration & learning
- Reading passages from the Bible
- Re-telling Bible stories
- Christian symbols, including candles
- Visual focus for prayer & reflection
- Observation of the religious cycle of the Christian Year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Easter
- Observe Saints Days & Holy Days
- Recognition of other key Christian festivals e.g. Pentecost
- Participation in Eucharist
- Opportunity for prayer & reflection
- Lord's Prayer & Grace
- Meditation & Silence
- Christian responses & greetings
- Stories
- Music for worship, from a variety of traditions
- Singing Hymns (traditional) & Songs
- Poetry, art, dvds, slide presentations
- Drama & role play
- Topical issues
- Dance
- Outside visitors e.g. Open the book, Rev Andrew,

PLANNING

Consideration is given to:

- Names of those responsible
- Breakdown of weekly themes
- List of readings, books, stories,
- Hymns, songs, music
- Visitors or other participants

Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship. Worship can be evaluated by those leading worship, other staff, pupils for whom the worship is intended and the governing body.

Evaluations from each class are recorded regularly in our Golden Book. Worship Wonders also come together to evaluate Collective Worship and consider ideas for moving it forward.

Monitoring

The foundation governors and have a key role in this. The following areas should be monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Clear Policy agreed by Governors
- Agreed Policy is implemented
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools
- Worship takes place daily
- School's Trust deed is upheld
- Appointed staff are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school
- Themes are well balanced throughout the year
- Links with the local parish & community
- Finances are available to develop worship
- Resources are available to support worship

Reporting back to Governors should be done regularly.

ORGANISATION

We have an agreed programme for the format of the Collective Worship for each day of the week.

Monday:	10:15 to 10:30am	Whole school Collective Worship led by the Headteacher.
Tuesday:	1:10 to 1:25 pm	Class 2 teacher (KS1 assembly)
	1:10 to 1:25 pm	Class 3 teacher (KS2 assembly)
Wednesday:	10:15 to 10:30 am	Class 1 teacher (KS1 Hymn Practise)
	1:10 to 1:25 pm	Class 4 teacher (KS2 Hymn Practise)
Thursday	10:15 to 10:30 am	Whole school worship led by Rev Andrew, Headteacher or visiting speaker
Friday	10:15 to 10:30 am	Achievements Assembly led by Headteacher

On the last Friday of every Month, Rev Andrew leads the Eucharist alongside Year 5 and 6 pupils. Parents, staff, Bickerstaffe's congregation and other friends of the school are welcome to this service of Holy Communion which usually lasts for 30minutes.

Worship is continued during the day in their classrooms when children meditate after registration and end with a morning prayer, say 'grace' at the beginning of lunch, and all classes join in a prayer at the end of the school day before going home. In addition to this, spontaneous prayer is encouraged at any other times throughout the day.

DELIVERY

Each month we have a theme for the Collective Worship usually related to the Fruits of the Vine Christian values. Worship is planned and delivered by the Headteacher weekly. Worship on these themes are also delivered by other staff and visitors. A focus table hosts symbols of the Trinity - with a bible (God the Father), a cross (God the Son) and a candle (God the Holy Spirit). **The colour of the cloth on the table relates to the season and liturgical cycle.**

Music

Music is used at the beginning and end of each Act of Worship in order to help create the appropriate atmosphere for the Service. Singing is an important part of worship and a variety of songs are used to enhance the children's' worship. Hymns/songs are sung at some point during every Act of Worship.

Main Teaching/Worship Theme

The scheme, Roots and Fruits 1 is followed by the Headteacher and Roots and Fruits 2 followed by staff. The person leading the worship will usually tell a story, or illustrate the main idea of the theme for the day. Children often take part in the worship answering questions, performing parts assigned to them or leading prayers. Visual aids are often used to enhance the meaning of the story or idea, or as a focus for the children's attention. Effective use is made of the school's multi-media centre in the hall enabling film clips and Power Point to be used. We aim to make the worship relevant and child centred. We take various approaches. E.g. café style, outside worship or prayer reflections.

Reflection and Prayer

There will be some time given in each type of Service for the children to reflect quietly on what has been presented, and to pray and to make a personal response.

Family Eucharist

The Vicar/member of the clergy leads these Services. The children will be involved. They may lead/participate in the following:-Two Bible readings, Presenting information/sketch/performance/dance/musical item to illustrate the main idea of the Service. Leading the prayers. Taking the Bread, Wine and Collection to the Vicar during the Service.

Singing quietly as the adults take Communion (any children who are of the Roman Catholic faith and have taken First Communion in their own Church, are welcome to take Communion with us, all other children receive a Blessing after Communion has been taken). The service is on Power Point.

HARVEST SERVICE

We hold a special Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Holy Trinity Church each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 5 and 6, but all pupils in the school take part. All parents and members of the community are invited. After the Service, some of the produce donated is taken by the children to a local sheltered accommodation for elderly people. Non perishables are donated to the local food bank.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Each November, we hold a solemn service to remember all those who died in the wars. The children participate in the service and a 2 minute silence follows the service outside of the church around the war memorial. This is a very moving service and provides opportunities for us to demonstrate our Christian values of thankfulness, peace, respect, compassion and love.

NATIVITY PLAY

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the Infant children and their teachers in December each year. Parents are invited to attend. This is followed by a special Carol Concert which is led by Key Stage 2 children. Again, parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to attend.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

December is a busy time, we all enjoy making our own Christingle candle to remember we are not alone, Jesus walks with others every day. We take it to church to share the joy of the season and give thanks for the coming of Jesus Christ.

CAROL SERVICE

Every December, we mark the last day of term by attending church and praising Jesus Christ by performing some of our favourite Christmas Carols amongst our school family, parents, guardians and members of the community.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

At the start of each year our Key Stage 2 children take part in this special service to the community. During this service we sing songs and give thanks for teachers, parents and all those who help us to learn.

EASTER SERVICE

This is organised by the staff and children in Years 5 & 6 accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend. It is held in Holy Trinity Church.

END of YEAR SERVICE

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese. We also hold our own special leavers service in Holy Trinity Church each year in July, also led by Y6.

Governors

The Governors have given their approval to this policy document in consultation with the Headteacher, who is also the R.E. subject leader for the school.

Review and Development

This policy will be reviewed/revised annually by the Headteacher in order to ensure that:-

- It complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation.
- Any necessary actions are included in the School Improvement Plan.