



## St Barnabas CE Primary School

"Preparing for a positive future, achieved through faith."

Christian values are central to the life of our school, where we are devoted to inspire our children to succeed, flourish and live life in all its fullness.

"Let your light shine."

Matthew 5:16

## Collective Worship Policy

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Policy Updated:                        | September 2021    |
| Date reviewed and agreed by Governors: | November 2021     |
| Date of next review:                   | September 2024    |
| Headteacher:                           | Miss J Hodgkinson |
| Chair of Governors:                    | Dr C Kressel      |

## **Policy Statement**

At St. Barnabas CE Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement: “Preparing for a positive future, achieved through faith.”

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. Being part of a Church school community offers unique opportunities for pupils to encounter the Christian faith as a lived expression of faith through collective worship. We respect each individual’s developing spirituality, regardless of their beliefs, religious or otherwise. Collective worship allows for the presence, inclusion and participation of members of the school community who come from faith backgrounds other than Christianity, or from no faith background at all. Whilst collective worship is an essential core element of our school life, it is also a voluntary act. Worship is an open invitation, but it is for pupils – and staff – to use that opportunity if they feel comfortable doing so: there is no compulsion to worship. This message is communicated to all who lead acts of collective worship, including visitors from outside groups.

## **Vision, Values and Inclusion Statement**

Our vision statement “*Preparing for a positive future achieved through faith*” embodies all that we strive to achieve for our children in this school. Our vision statement underpins everything we do in school as we aspire to ensure that all children develop socially, academically, emotionally, morally and spiritually in order to achieve their full potential. This is supported by our key Bible verse “Let your light shine.” (Matthew 5:16) We encourage our children to ‘let their light shine,’ and to strive for excellence in everything they do, every day.

We are a Christian school where every child is valued and nurtured. Our expectations are firmly rooted in Christian values which underpin all that we do. We believe that children should experience excellent teaching and develop a deep love of learning. Christian values are at the heart of our teaching and learning and we encourage all of our children to put these values into practice in every aspect of school life.

## **Values Education**

Christian values are central to the life of St Barnabas Primary School and are woven through the curriculum in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Whole school worship led by the Head teacher  |
| Tuesday   | Class based worship led by teaching staff and children.                             |
| Wednesday | Collective Worship based on a current global issue, using the Picture News resource |
| Thursday  | Musical worship led by Mrs Fisher with prayer/reflection.                           |
| Friday    | Celebration worship led by the Head teacher or the Deputy Head teacher              |

The worship should last approximately 15 minutes. Every worship is evaluated by a child, member of staff or Governor. Worship can also be led by visiting guests.

## **Planning, Content and Detail**

The themes for collective worship reflect our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events. A Collective Worship Overview is written for each half term, which details how themes will be developed through the half term. The children enter the hall to a piece of music or Christian song. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a time for reflection and prayer. The candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Class based worships focus on their Worship box and are evaluated in their own class books. We encourage children to take an active part in all worships and to lead worship when appropriate.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. Children are invited to pray if they choose to do so, in a way that is comfortable to them.

At the beginning of the whole school worship the candles are lit and a simple song is sung. The end of worship is indicated by another song and the candles being blown out.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, a lunchtime prayer is said by either an adult or child in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day.

Every class room has a Reflective Area, where the Class Value is explicitly shared. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day. The school has a variety of prayer spaces around the school where children are encouraged to, and are able to, sit quietly to pray or reflect.

## **Other Faiths**

At St. Barnabas, our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

## **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

A Collective Worship Overview for each half term contains details of each act of worship. Weekly evaluations will also be recorded. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

## **Equal Opportunities and SEND**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Worship.

## **Appendix1 - Contingency Planning for the event of a COVID-19 outbreak**

From March 2020 to July 2021, acts of collective worship were carried out via Microsoft Teams. From September 2021, the school's COVID-19 Risk Assessment allows collective worship to take place in the school hall. In the event of a rise in cases, collective worship would need to be carried out via Microsoft Teams. (See St Barnabas Contingency Plan for details.)