

BISHOP WOOD C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to celebrate the ideals and values of the school as a Christian community;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit and to take a pride in their achievements;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion where all members of the school community come together in fellowship to celebrate and give thanks. We confirm our identity and acknowledge when we make mistakes. We reflect and develop a sense of the other, asking questions to help us to understand the relationship of the Trinity. We consider how Jesus is alive today.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Certainly we refer to the beliefs of other faiths in our collective worship.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in the afternoon at 1.30 -1.45pm from Monday to Thursday and on Fridays 9.15 – 9.30am, except in exceptional circumstances. The whole school assembles in the school hall. Half termly visits are made to the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul for collective worship, including end of term services. Parents and carers are invited to all church services and special events. Prayers are said in each class before lunchtime at 12.15pm and at the end of the day.

The pattern for collective worship each week is as follows:

- † Monday: led by Head teacher
- † Tuesday: Celebration Collective Worship, led by Deputy Head teacher
- † Wednesday: led by Tring Team Ministry Collective Worship
- † Thursday: led by a class teacher
- † Friday: Class led worship, either in class or with the whole school

- 3.2** We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We enable the children to understand that collective 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 ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects or visual prompts, to focus the attention of the children. We encourage the active participation of all children. Children perform the entrance and exit music one each week. The children sit in a horseshoe shape. In church the children make use of the staging and microphones. Use is also made of ICT in the form of projected slides, film clips and recording equipment.
- 3.3** Collective worship on Wednesday is led by a member of the Tring Team Ministry. Visiting local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups may also take collective worship. Collective worship on Thursday is led by a member of the teaching staff on a rota basis. Sometimes groups of children lead collective worship, supported by teachers where needed. Class led worship is organised on a rota basis.
- 3.4** A termly Collective Worship Plan is written by the Collective Worship Working Party, which includes a member of the Tring Team Ministry, a member of the school's leadership team and children from Year 6. We use the Diocesan themes as a guide, linking the Collective Worship Plan closely to the Church of England calendar and the teaching of Christian values. This plan is also used to structure the hymns sung and the music played for entrance to and exit from collective worship. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Occasionally the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, including the Learning Powers scheme used in school. We plan our collective worship well in advance of the day they take place. There is no set format and variety is encouraged. Examples of the strategies used are story telling, poetry, interviews, discussions and drama. All collective worship has either a religious or moral meaning, or is celebrating work or God's creation. Child participation in every aspect of the assembly is encouraged. Simple records are kept by children and the leaders of the collective worship to provide evidence of the range of topics, resources and approaches being used. Evaluations are made by the leaders of collective worship and are used to inform future planning.
- 3.5** Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the collective worship by showing their work and achievements to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Tuesday's collective worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Bishop Wood School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our collective worship.
- 3.6** Parents and carers are invited to attend class led collective worship. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. Parents and carers are also invited to attend the half termly services held at the parish church. The children and staff from Bishop Wood also participate in church services, including take part in planning and leading Sunday Worship For All services.

3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

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

4.2 The head teacher will keep a record of any children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is within the role of governor monitoring and reports are given to the Governing Body.

5.2 Leaders of collective worship complete a record sheet for the assemblies they take that includes the theme, content, resources and Anglican material used.

5.3 Regular evaluations of the collective worship held in school is carried out by the leadership team and used to inform future developments.