



Collective Worship Policy

- September 2023
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Introduction

Our school is a happy family where we encourage each other to shine and be the best that we can be. Our enriching curriculum inspires confident, aspirational pupils to have a love of learning and a passion for serving the community. We are inspired by the words of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." By placing our trust in the God who strengthens, helps us to build resilience, courage, hope and confidence as well as helping us to support and encourage each other. Our Christian values create a safe, nurturing space where all are respected, valued, and enabled to succeed and flourish in God's love.

Collective worship is an integral part of life at Bosley St. Mary's CE Primary School. The children and staff meet together each day for assembly which incorporates our act of collective worship.

Timetable

The usual timetable for weekly full school worship/assemblies is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School led by the Headteacher	Whole School led by the Vicar / Curate	Whole School - Visitor assembly / singing practice	Class assembly	Whole School celebration assembly

This timetable sometimes varies to allow time for the celebration of Harvest, Easter, and Christmas Festivals in St Mary the Virgin Church. Our church services are open to the whole community including residents of the village. We mark the start and end of our school year in Church and, where possible, our Y6 children attend the Diocesan Leavers' Service.

Structure

Each of our collective worships starts with the candle being lit and the greeting. This starting point signals the quietness of worship.

Welcome Words

Leader: We are gathered together in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Response: Amen
Leader: Grace, mercy and peace be with you from the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father
Response: And also with you
Leader: This is the day the Lord has made
Response: Let us rejoice and be glad in it

The Main Body of the Worship

Children and staff see worship as a period of reflection, our collective worship usually incorporates a hymn/song, prayers, a story from the bible or other religious texts, stories with a moral/message, retell events etc. However, they can also include use of drama, videos or a PowerPoint to help discuss a theme or story. Collective worship should allow the children time to reflect and where appropriate comment on what has been said, seen and heard.

We encourage the children to take part and be confident in participating or leading aspects of worship, maybe through reading, prayer, the music, etc. both in school and church

A prayer is used at the end of each worship; this could be a traditional Anglican prayer, an informal prayer linked to the theme or child-led prayers.

Friday Assembly

On Friday, we celebrate the week's work and the children's achievements over the week. Inspiration is drawn from our school mission, the words in Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me'. Our focus is always one of our five BEARS values, and we celebrate children who have shown strength by embodying that value. Certificates are presented to one child in each class with a special Headteacher's award for one more pupil.

Singing

Each half-term we learn two songs related to our collective worship theme and/or the upcoming Christian festival. Singing is not just limited to our worship times, classes are actively encouraged to sing throughout the day to deepen our sense of community and provide an active brain break from academic work. Alongside our termly 'theme' songs, we learn additional songs for our worship in church.

Closing Words

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Response: In the name of Christ, Amen

Christians Values

Our worship is based around our Christian Values, and we use our BEARS acronym to help us remember them:

Believe	Being the best we can be
Encourage	Encouraging each other to shine
Achieve	All joined in love and friendship
Relate	Reaching for the knowledge to
Serve	Succeed and flourish in God's love

These values are covered throughout the year and will provide the basis for assembly planning. Certain values will also help us to make links to other religions as well as British Values. The values are artistically displayed in the hall, our focus value is indicated using a golden frame.

Key themes for our assemblies are planned for each term/half-term and our Monday, Tuesday and Thursday assemblies relate directly to this. We draw on the Diocesan and County guidelines for our themes, sometimes linked with themes taught in RE and other assembly resources as appropriate. Long-, medium- and short-term planning is stored in our Collective Worship electronic folder on Google Drive. Teachers should reflect on the collective worship by annotating their planning.

Collective Worship in Class

Each class has a reflection book where children are encouraged to reflect on assemblies and acts of worship. This should be kept and displayed in each class's reflection areas.

Pupils are also encouraged to participate in acts of worship throughout the day. Each class should do a prayer before lunch and at home time. There are also opportunities for informal, child-led prayers throughout the school day. Prayers can be found in the Appendix.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from worship should they wish to. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life.

Appendix 1 - Prayers

School Prayer

This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of humankind
Love of life itself
And love of God, Amen

Lunchtime Prayer

Bless us Oh Lord as we sit together
Bless the food eat we today
Bless the hands that made the food
Bless us Oh Lord, Amen

Home time Prayer

God Our Father, I have come to say
Thank you for your love today
Thank you for my family and all the friends you gave to me
Guard me Lord in the night
And in the morning send your light, Amen

Appendix 2 - Evaluation Questions for Collective Worship

Questions to ask Children after an act of Collective Worship

- What parts of collective worship did you enjoy today and why?
- What kind of things went through your mind?
- Can you describe how you felt about today's theme?

Questions for Teachers to reflect on after an act of Collective Worship

- How did you ensure that the atmosphere conducive to worship was created and sustained?
- Explain how you chose today's theme and how it fits into the overall pattern of the school's worship.
- What elements of worship did you include today and how did you feel each part went?
- If you could repeat today's worship is there anything that you would change?