

# Belton C of E Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Date	October 2020	
Review	October 2023	

At Belton Church of England Primary School, our vision is:

**Achieving the best together:** By preparing all in our school community for fullness of life, reaching their potential, physically, mentally, and emotionally through an appreciation of their spiritual lives inspired by the values of Jesus Christ.

**I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness. John 10 v10**

Our mission is to create and enable an exciting and supportive environment so that all our learners will flourish both emotionally and educationally to ensure that they can be the best they can be and become responsible, confident individuals who are equipped for the future. We are committed to developing the full potential of **all** our school community by having high expectations and by creating a culture of positive endeavour underpinned by Christian values so that **all** can achieve.

### **Aims**

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

(Note: - The 1988, 1992 and 1993 Acts require that controlled schools provide daily acts of collective worship, which are broadly Christian, and must contain elements which relate to the traditions of Christian belief and accord a special status to Jesus Christ. These acts of worship should promote the spiritual and moral developments of pupils.)

The aims outlined above are a central part of the school's aims and are at the heart of the school's ethos.

### **Statement of broad aims:**

1. To contribute to the vision and mission statement and aims of the school
2. To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship
3. To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
4. To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils
5. To explore the beliefs of others
6. To develop links with the local church

### **The Meaning of Collective Worship**

"Worship" is not defined in the legislation and in the absence of any such definition it should be taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning. That is, it must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. However, worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to "collective worship" rather than "corporate worship". Education Reform Act 1988

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school. Indeed, we use worship to clarify the school's values and standards.

"Taking part" in collective worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship.

We feel that worship needs to include a time for thinking, sharing, listening, stillness and silence. We may use a lighted candle, a cross, a prayer or music as focus. We may follow through the reflection in class.

### **Character of Collective Worship**

In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, section 7(1) of the Education Reform Act (and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993) say that collective worship organised by a county or equivalent grant-maintained school is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character'.

The Act then further defines collective worship of a 'broadly Christian character' as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Any such Worship should not, however, be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination'

In our collective worship, we also teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. We also promote respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, we enable children to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our pluralistic society.

We also provide opportunities for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multi-cultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives. All these strategies will help to develop positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.

### **Organisation and Delivery:**

**The pattern of weekly worship will generally follow an agreed pattern:**

Day	Time	Leader
Monday	10.15 am	Headteacher
Tuesday	9am	Clergy team of St John the Baptist
Wednesday	10.15am	Class teacher
Thursday	10.15am	Class teacher
Friday	9.30am	Headteacher

Families and governors are invited to join us for our worship on the first Tuesday of the month in church or on a Friday at the end of each half term for our Celebration Worship in school.

Worship will last approximately 15-20 minutes each day. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DofE regulations it is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education. A variety of teaching and learning activities will be used e.g. pupils may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus. They may ask or answer questions and contribute their own ideas in the form of prayers. Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum. Pupils will also contribute to and lead worship through music, drama and reading their own prayers. There will be opportunities for quiet reflection as well as praise and thanksgiving.

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

### **Content and approaches**

The headteacher produces a termly worship timetable, which outlines who will lead each worship. Worship will normally be organised in weekly themes. Each half term a Christian value will be focused on and supplement collective worship themes.

### **The Collective Worship Co-ordinator will:**

- Co-ordinate the planning of worship
- Keep a record of worship themes and hymns
- Attend training as appropriate
- Keep up to date with resources
- Evaluate the quality of worship

During the Covid 19 Pandemic worship will be prerecorded Monday to Thursday and watched in classrooms, on a Friday it will take place as a live google meet. Singing will not take place. Parents will not be able to come in to the building once a month and we are unable to visit Church

J Scott

Date: October 2020