



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St Bartholomew's Primary School

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| Date agreed by Governing Board         | September 2023         |
| Signature of Chair of Governors        | <i>Bettina Carlyon</i> |
| Date to be reviewed by Governing Board | September 2025         |

*This version supersedes all previous versions of this policy*

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### **Our Core Purpose** **Kindness, Respect and** **Perseverance**

Lord Jesus help us all to use what you  
have given us to make the world a  
brighter place today, **Amen**

### **Our Vision**

With God as our guide we are  
committed to:

- Developing curiosity by opening our children's minds to a limitless world of possibilities.
- Inspiring, challenging and supporting children to achieve and excel in a nurturing environment.
- Building a community through faith, tolerance and resilience where each individual is valued and will thrive.

"In a Church school Collective  
Worship should be inclusive,  
invitational and inspiring."  
*Statutory Inspection of Anglican and  
Methodist Schools: An Evaluation Schedule  
for Schools and Inspectors (2018)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. The aim and purpose of this is to create an occasion, which produces a variety of responses, one of which is worship. By providing different levels of interest and involvement, all children will feel included whatever their beliefs or background. However, underpinning our collective worship are the core values of Christianity. It is our aim for children to 'keep their minds open' to learning from the faith and beliefs of others. Worship is inclusive and affirming and therefore seen as relevant for all children.
2. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship.
3. As a Church of England school with a distinctive Christian character, we base our worship on the teachings of the Bible and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
4. Worship should enable spiritual growth in all participants, whatever their faith, or none. There should be opportunity for everyone in the school to participate; this includes the chance for pupils to plan and lead worship.
5. Themes change on a weekly basis and include the school's core values. We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, and other topical issues.
6. There is a growing a partnership with the Incumbent of St Bartholomew's Church in developing and leading the

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school's programme of Collective Worship and use is made of the parish church for some worship.

### STRUCTURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

7. Although the format of collective worship will vary, the expectation is always that children are engaged, involved and reflective. Members of the ministry team from St Bartholomew's Church and invited speakers also lead collective worship.
8. During collective worship there are opportunities for children to:
  - pray and express praise and thanksgiving to God;
  - reflect on the attributes of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ;
  - promote and affirm Christian values and attitudes;
  - foster respect and unity;
  - share each other's joys and challenges;
  - celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar;
  - deepen their spiritual awareness and reflection.
9. Our class assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work or performing to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Class assemblies all have a Christian element to them. They also reflect the school's Christian values. (Suspended during the pandemic).

10. We invite parents to class assemblies, to Eucharist and to other key events such as Christmas, Harvest and Easter as well as events at church such as Education Sunday, school leavers' service etc. as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. (Suspended during the pandemic)
11. We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

12. As a Church school we expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship. We will then hold a discussion with the parents. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
13. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### MONITORING AND REVIEW

14. We review our collective worship regularly and include in this the views of any stakeholders, including the children.
15. This policy will be reviewed every two years.