



Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

School Christian Vision:

Rooted in Jesus, and Fruitful in Mission and Service

Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School has a living Christian foundation following the teaching of Jesus, whereby we seek for everyone in our School community to be Rooted and Fruitful in Him. We live out this faith by following Jesus' command to: **"Love one another as I have loved you."** (John 15:12)

We recognise that everyone is uniquely made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore everyone is welcome and important here. We are committed to providing a safe environment in which children and adults can flourish.

We are a community together with St Philip's Dorridge and St James' Bentley Heath, which shares life together, laughter and joy, sadness and tears, fostering strength in togetherness - giving and receiving forgiveness.

We value all God's children and are determined to provide an education for the children entrusted to us that enables them to appreciate it as a blessing and a life-long treasure; out of the richness and challenge, enjoyment, wonder and surprise that we aim to offer.

We provide teaching and learning opportunities for all children to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and the Spiritual wisdom necessary to achieve their potential and to recognise themselves and each other as God's work in progress as we try to be more like Jesus.

We set our sights on living and learning in this Christian community to renew hearts and minds and to lay down the foundations for lives lived Rooted in Jesus, and Fruitful in mission and service, as we journey together in faith.

The Collective Worship Lead, Jayne Metters, has drawn up this policy in consultation with the Governors of the school, Head Teacher: Andrew Williams, Rev. Duncan Hill-Brown and other members of staff.

Legal requirement:

Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School is a two-form entry academy of previously voluntary controlled school designation. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, our Statutory Instrument of Government states: "The school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice." Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

Rationale for Collective Worship:

At Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms its Christian foundation which promotes the values of the school



Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

and represents the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive of, all. It reflects our Christian tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

The organisation of Collective Worship:

At Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School Collective Worship offers a space for personal thought, reflection and prayer to all:

Spiritually:

- To think about God
- To make a response to God
- To explore a relationship with God
- To enjoy being in the presence of God
- To offer praise and thanksgiving to God
- To get a sense of things unseen
- To explore personal belief
- To feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together
- To experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them
- To reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- To wonder
- To gain inspiration
- To receive a challenge to live differently
- To rejoice in being unique and precious

Socially, Morally and Culturally:

- To learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism
- To learn about different faiths
- To participate in marking important features of the church calendar
- To explore Christian values
- To use stillness and quietness
- To have a quiet moment in a busy day
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements
- To consider moral issues



Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Inclusivity:

Our Collective Worship is accessible to all:

- Whatever age, aptitude or background
- Where the integrity of each is respected
- Enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs
- Sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community.

Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall and follows the following pattern:

Monday	Whole School Assembly: Led by the clergy
Tuesday	Whole School Assembly: World/Faith festivals and special days
Wednesday	Key Stage Assembly: Christian Value focus
Thursday	Key Stage Assembly: Hymn Practice, prayer & reflection
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly

The planning of Collective Worship:

Each half-term there are themes for Collective worship based on Christian values for schools and “Jigsaw” themes. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to these themes. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the themes from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the themes, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect from a variety of viewpoints.

Reverend Duncan Hill-Brown leads Collective Worship every week, linking his worship to a four year cycle of teaching based on the Bible from the Old and New Testaments. This teaching includes the seasons of the Christian year, and regularly revisits the Christian doctrines of the Trinity, Creation, Incarnation, Salvation, and the Holy Spirit. Seeking to encourage and develop respect for people of faith, and to become a community centred around Jesus command; “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

We also hold whole school services at key times throughout the year, most of which are planned and led by the children:

- Harvest – Year 5
- Christmas – Year 4
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter – Year 3
- Leavers – Year 6



Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

There is a weekly celebration of world faiths, linked to the calendar, with worship focusing on a special day or festival occurring that week – “Diwali” for example.

On occasions it is also recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. This is always done with care and sensitivity.

All staff leading collective worship are given useful resources but are also asked to plan their act of worship as they would any other learning activity.

Our Worship Leaders – pupils from Year 6 – make our Hall ready for worship, welcome pupils, lead the responses and offer the ‘peace’.

The content of Collective Worship:

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme.

These could include:

Stories, music, photographs, pictures, artwork, video, poetry, drama, games, questioning, discussion, singing and praying.

As a Church of England school, we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways:

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints’ days.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- We use predominantly Anglican prayers and hymns including The Lord’s Prayer
- Time for reflection is always used

The management of Collective Worship:

The Governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the Head Teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Jayne Metters (Collective Worship Lead & EYFS Leader). We liaise with Reverend Duncan Hill-Brown in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.



Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship:

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept in a file. Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- Staff/Pupil feedback to CW Lead
- School Council agenda item
- Governors attend regularly

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship:

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Agreed by Trustees (School Improvement Group) Autumn 2019

Review date for the policy: Autumn 2021