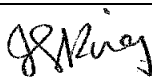




Broxbourne CE Primary School & Extended Schools

Collective Worship Policy

Ratified by Governors	December 2021
Date for Review	November 2024
Signed Chair of Governors	

From the Instrument of Government

‘Recognising its historic foundation, Broxbourne CE Primary 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.’

Broxbourne CE Primary School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Our Vision Statement is biblically derived and underpinned from an unwavering belief that:

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

At Broxbourne CE Primary School, we believe that through belief and with the love of God, all children can achieve their full potential.

Vision Statement

It our belief that our all members of our school community should strive to:

‘Dream, Believe and Achieve with God’

Collective Worship in our school

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This either forms part of each morning assembly or is a class based act of collective worship.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. We tell children that assembly time is a period of reflection and at times to be able to use silence positively. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We expect our children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and through lighting our worship candle and other objects or images which act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We understand worship to be a special occasion whose purpose is to show reverence for God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

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 traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of our school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Values

- In our church school the worship will reflect the requirements of the Trust Deed (which refers to the practices and traditions of the Church of England). Every child takes part in an act of worship on every school day.
- Our worship is a central, vital component of our whole school life.
- Worship in our church school must take into account the age, aptitude and ability of the children; reflecting their needs and supporting and demonstrating the ethos of the school.
- The worship can be enhanced when it is given additional meaning by being integrated with the work of the school.
- We believe that collective worship should support and strengthen what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.
- Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child - spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually - must be reflected in our worship.
- We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives everybody to develop both a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Aims and Objectives

Through our collective worship we aim to help children to be aware of the existence of God and of his care and concern for them as expressed in the Christian Gospel. We aim to help children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and as part of a group within the school and wider community;
- grow in understanding of the feelings and beliefs of other people in every day situations;
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimuli;
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings, especially in the worship of the Christian church;
- experience praying in groups and to help them to realise that each individual may learn to pray in their own way;
- participate and respond;
- allow time for reflection.

Worship encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum, so that every child and every member of staff may feel involved. In particular our school worship develops that feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage our children to:

- become familiar with certain prayers and parts of the traditional Christian liturgy;
- join in congregational prayers and to be encouraged to make their own prayers to share with others in assembly and at other times;
- help children gradually develop an awareness of the importance and value of prayer in their own lives;
- share the teachings of the Gospel with the children in many different ways;
- reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings – through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people;
- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community;
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world;
- reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn...;
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards, manifested in religions and society;
- share an appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school;
- celebrate special occasions together;
- allow times to include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music.

Organisation

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. Local clergy take turns to deliver assembly on a Thursday and on other special occasions.

The children in Key Stage Two volunteer to belong to our Hooked On Worship group which is responsible for an assembly alternating Mondays with our worship through song. The

children work in small teams with a given focus to plan and present their assembly and are supported by a member of staff in their preparation and delivery.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, special celebrations and world events. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Often, we base our themes on Christian values and a 'values' education, which is an integral part of our school. These will incorporate our school values across a two year cycle of Respect, Equality, Service, Trust, Excellence, Compassion and Trust. We plan our assemblies and Collective Worship each term with the help of our local clergy.

Some of our assemblies reflect the learning and achievements of the children. We encourage the children to live out our school values and participate in sharing and class assemblies by showing and sharing their work to their parents and their peers, raising issues they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

We invite parents and extended family members to our sharing and class assemblies in school and our Christmas, Harvest and End of Term Services in St Augustine's Church. Each term, we hold a Broxbourne Community Collective Worship Service and start our school day at St Augustine's Church. We encourage everyone to attend 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. We additionally on a termly basis encourage our school to attend a specific 'Broxbourne Goes To Church' Sunday service and take an active part in the service on that Sunday through singing and delivering a bible reading or school update.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. As this is a Church of England School our worship forms an important part of our school life together. Therefore, parents are invited to discuss this matter with the Headteacher before making a decision to withdraw their children. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship will be provided with an alternative activity.

Very occasionally parents are asked to give permission for their child to be withdrawn from assembly for Learning Support for a few sessions. This decision is always made in collaboration with parents.

Children with Special Needs

Care should be taken to ensure that children with special needs are considered with care, so that collective worship:-

- does not try to deal with too many ideas
- presents concepts simply and clearly
- uses a variety of forms of presentation.

Success Criteria

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against the following:

- understanding the value of prayer;
- understanding and knowledge of the Gospel;
- the growth of respect and acceptance within the school community;
- a contribution to individual and community sense of well being;
- positive response to share experience;
- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reactions and reflections of our children;
- an atmosphere which matches the theme.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of all the Foundation Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors will evaluate the impact of Worship on a regular basis, following the termly Headteacher's Report. The RE Governor will talk to the children during subject specific visits as to the children's understanding and impact of collective worship and its positive contribution to the Distinctive Christian Character of the School. We additionally consider the impact of our Distinctive Christian Character and Collective Worship upon our children through parental questionnaires.