February 2025

Bishop Monkton Church of England School

Collective Worship Policy

"Act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with God."

Introduction

At Bishop Monkton Church of England School, the daily act of Collective Worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take part in a high quality and meaningful experience offering a spiritual encounter within an inclusive Christian and educational context. It is hoped that no pupils or teachers will withdraw. However, if there are parents who wish to exercise this right, special arrangements will be made to cater for withdrawn pupils.

At Bishop Monkton Church of England School we aim to:

- enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- share the central teachings of the Christian faith in order for the school community to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;
- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- explore the school's Christian vision and values and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised be feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;

- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community though the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer;
- help children discover their place in the world.

Organisation

1. Key stage 1 and 2 will meet for at least 15 minutes each day in the hall on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for Collective Worship. A different focus will be used on each occasion: Stories from Christianity; Values for Life; current affairs and 'A Time to Celebrate'. EYFS will join in with the school on a Monday and a Friday and at other times when it is felt that the service is age-appropriate. On Tuesday the school will come together in a musical act of Collective Worship known as 'Singing His Praises'.

2. Different members of staff will lead each Collective Worship and will be responsible for the delivery and content. Each teacher should have a theme, which will continue over the half-term. The collective worship table will provide a focal point along with other symbols as appropriate. Records will note the focus, key message, leader and hymn/song.

3. Family and friends should be encouraged to attend our 'Time to Celebrate' Collective Worship on Friday mornings when there is an affirming, praising and valued sharing of the week's work as well as the achievements and milestones in children's lives.

4. Each day, music for arrival and exit is provided through the use of Musician of the Month. This reflects a variety of musical traditions and cultures/genres. The music is changed on a weekly basis.

5. A variety of visitors from other denominations will be invited to lead worship each half term. Visitors from other faiths will be invited to lead worship as appropriate to the school community and to the children's learning opportunities.

6. Children in KS2 have the opportunity to become Worship Leaders. Children belong to a Worship team and members of Year 6 lead each team, helping in the organisation of Collective Worship daily. Each worship team is allocated a day of the week on which they lead worship. This then changes every half term. On a Friday, all worship leaders are encouraged to join in with the worship.

7. Year 6 pupils join other Y6 from the town and village schools in Ripon Cathedral for a joint celebration of life at primary school before secondary transfer.

8. The Monday Collective Worship team, made up of pupils of all ages, will work alongside staff to plan and deliver Collective Worship on Monday mornings. The Collective Worship Leader will supervise the team.

9. Acts of Collective Worship will be held at the Parish Church during the year particularly at Harvest, Christmas and Easter time. These will be led by Year 6 pupils.

10. When the whole school is unable to assemble together for collective worship each class will hold its own in its place.

11. Collective worship may often need to be responsive. Where a national event raises a question that children need to discuss, the Collective Worship Leader will tailor an appropriate focus for worship to allow children to ask their questions and explore the subject in a safe and supportive environment. These sessions will always be tiered to allow the younger children to access only content appropriate to them and then give a fuller opportunity for the older children to ask their questions.

Pattern of Collective Worship:
Monday – Half-termly Value, led by the Headteacher
Tuesday – Singing His Praises, led by Mrs Cairns
Wednesday – Exploring the Bible, led by Reverend Robb
Thursday – Current affairs/Musician of the month (first Thursday of the month), led by Miss Pickles, Mrs McMahon or Mrs Russell
Friday – Time to Celebrate, led by the Headteacher

This Policy should be reviewed yearly by the Collective Worship leader.

Date February 2025

Review date January 2028