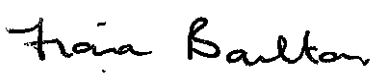




# Collective Worship Policy

Approved by Governors:	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Signed	 Fiona Boulton, Chair of Governors
For review:	September 2023
School website:	✓

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

Baldwins Gate Primary School is a Christian school where children, inspired by our Christian values, learn together to be the best that they can be.

Through respect, tolerance and kindness they learn that they are unique and valued and to celebrate the value and uniqueness of others.

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind.*

*<sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always perseveres.*

**Corinthians 13**

As a voluntary-controlled church school, we strive to ensure the best possible learning journey for children in our care; encouraging the development of values and attitudes, skills and knowledge, that will release the potential in each individual, for the benefit of others, in an ever-changing world.

As a school community of children, parents, staff and governors, we aspire that our actions and attitudes underpinned by our school values of:

- Truthfulness
- Respect
- Community
- Individuality
- Responsibility

will ensure that at Baldwins Gate all our pupils are 'learning together in faith, truth and love'.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

- Collective worship is central to the life of Baldwins Gate CE Primary School.
- It offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our special and unique Christian character. It is a special time.
- It allows those present to experience and participate in Christian worship that is God centred, affirms and values Christian beliefs and yet remains inclusive and educational
- Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all our pupils.
- Worship is inclusive and although Christian is accessible to all member of our school community.
- It is invitational and values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.
- The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

At Baldwins Gate CE (VC) Primary School are aims and objectives are to:

- Offer a range of experiences that enhance the spiritual development and response of the school community.
- Seek to make a difference to the lives of all members of the school community by engaging, challenging and encouraging a Christian ethos.
- Enable learners to develop an understanding of the person of Jesus Christ and the central position he occupies in the Christian faith.
- Set the distinctive values of the school in their Christian context.
- Allow learners to explore and enjoy reflection, praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity.
- Allow participants to respond to a wide variety of stimuli including, for example, praise, silence, songs, art work, technology, guided reflection, drama, music, prayer and their active involvement.
- Ensure that worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Enable pupils to develop as independent worshippers.
- Provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the seasons of the Church year and Christian festivals including local celebrations.
- Choose themes that raise aspirations, inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:

- Recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community.
- Celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth.
- Reinforce school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines.
- Share school and community information.

## **MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - OVERVIEW**

- The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.
- This involves the planning of a programme for Collective Worship that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school.
- A range of members from the school community, including local clergy, contribute to this planning.
- Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.
- Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so.

- The worship co-ordinator keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that collective worship forms an aspect of the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.
- The Headteacher and worship co-ordinator are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

## OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Headteacher plans Collective Worship. During the academic year 2021/2022 we will be focusing on our School Values. We will also celebrate key festivals – Easter and Christmas and special days in both Christian and other faiths.

Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship	Mrs Lowndes
Tuesday	Class Worship	
Wednesday	Whole school worship	Mrs Lowndes and Reverend Clemas
Thursday	Worship through song	Mrs Lowndes
Friday	Whole school celebration worship	Mrs Lowndes

Each act of collective worship in our school consists of some or perhaps all of the following Key Elements, which are woven together in a coherent and well-planned act of worship.

### Our Worship

Children enter our worship to a calm piece of music. Our worship is opened by our pupil worship leaders and follows a consistent liturgy. The altar is a central focus upon which an open Bible, cross and a candle is lit. Our worship follows monthly themes as well as key events in the church calendar. Key elements of our worship will be a biblical reference or reading, linking this back to our school, community and current world affairs. A song of worship, prayer and reflection. Children will leave our worship to a piece of music. Our worship team of children take an active role in helping to lead worship on a regular basis.

### Our programme for Collective Worship:

Year A (2021/22)	Year B (2022/23)
Autumn Term 1: Generosity and harvest Autumn Term 2: Compassion and Christmas Spring Term 1: Courage and Candlemas Spring Term 2: Forgiveness, Lent and Easter Summer Term 1: Friendship and Pentecost Summer Term 2: Respect and The Trinity	Autumn Term 1: Thankfulness and Harvest Autumn Term 2: Compassion and Advent Spring Term 1: Perseverance and Epiphany Spring Term 2: Justice, Lent and Easter Summer Term 1: Service and Pentecost Summer Term 2: Truthfulness and The Trinity

## **Prayer and Reflection**

Time will be given for personal reflection, sometimes with a suggested theme. The scene must be set from the beginning, with children entering the area where worship will take place quietly. Children need to appreciate the reflective nature of worship and a period of silence or question/answer time needs to be incorporated so that children are given an opportunity to reflect on what they have heard and seen. Prayer is invitational. Prayers learned by the whole school eg The Lord's Prayer or the school prayer will be said or the teacher or visitor may read or say a prayer for the children to listen and respond to. Prayers are also a central part of our daily routine within the classroom. A short prayer is said before lunch and at the end of the day.

## **Private Prayer/Worship**

Our prayer place and prayer tree provide an opportunity for quiet reflection, private prayer and request for prayer.

## **Visual aids**

These can be selected to exemplify a specific focus. They can be used to enrich worship, enhance the theme and provide a context the children can relate to. Three candles are lit at the beginning of every worship to reflect the Trinity. They are used to create an atmosphere, which is warm and welcoming yet peaceful and calm. It provides a clear message about the special nature of the occasion and indicates when the act of collective worship begins and ends.

## **Music, hymns and songs**

Appropriate music can be played as the children enter and leave worship, to enhance the atmosphere and mood of worship. Hymns and songs from a variety of sources are used during worship to respond to and celebrate life, God and the world around us.

## **Stories**

Both fictional and non-fictional, and other readings from sacred and inspirational literature. The Bible can be used in a variety of ways during school worship, although thought must be given to the worship intention and the Biblical input. Wisdom, Respect, Trust, Friendship, Compassion and Forgiveness

## **Aims of our School**

To enable children and families to flourish in a vibrant and Christ-centred environment that promotes resilient, confident and active learners. Individual verses can be chosen and explained or the Bible characters and stories can be selected to exemplify a specific focus. A number of fiction/ nonfiction stories also offer the opportunity to enhance the theme and provide context. We encourage stories from a range of cultures.

## **Links with our Local Church Community**

As part of the Joint Benefice of Whitmore, Maer and Chapel Chorlton, the school encourages interaction with 'the local church' via visiting and worshiping within the Church building for major festivals e.g. Easter. We also encourage 'the living church' to have a corporate interaction with the school, some church members express their Christian service by supporting reading groups, and similarly 'the living church' is encouraged to, and does, actively support the school through prayer both on a regular basis during services and for important occasions, for example, prayers were said in church for the

appointment of the new Headteacher and prior to the interview the Rector led the staff and governors in prayer.

## **RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL**

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

## **ROLE OF GOVERNORS**

The Governors have the responsibility for overseeing the policy for Collective Worship and ensure that the relevant information is available to parents regarding arrangements for Collective Worship and rights of withdrawal.

## **ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

Vision Statement



## Collective Worship Programme

Month	Christian Season	Values
September		Community
October	Harvest	Thankfulness
November	Armistice	Peace/Justice
December	Advent Christmas	Christmas Story Incarnation
January	Epiphany	Wisdom/Courage
February	Ordinary Time	Trust/Truthfulness
March	Lent	Endurance/Patience
April	Easter Pentecost	Salvation
May	Ordinary Time	Forgiveness/Compassion
June		Humility/Reverence
July		Service/Generosity