

*They will soar on wings like eagles ...?*

*Isaiah 40:31*

*Collaborate | enrich | trust | innovate | aspire | nurture*



## Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted by Local Governing Body:

September 2019 Date of next

Review: September 2025

# School Vision Statement

*Through belonging, everyone flourishes in a purposeful, nurturing and inspiring learning environment that puts community and family at the heart of everything we do. All are seen as unique individuals, valued and precious in the eyes of Christ, who are aspirational champions of their own success, working together to succeed.*

'The Lost Sheep' Luke 15:4-7

## School Values

Gratitude    Resilience    Respect    Community    Friendship

### **Introduction**

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of love, hope, compassion, forgiveness and perseverance and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

### **What is Collective Worship?**

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

*"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)*

**Corporate worship** assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian

gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

**Collective worship**, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

Collective Worship should be:

*“Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)*

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other’s joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we ensure that collective worship

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

**The Anglican Christian Tradition**



The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church’s Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord’s Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Using Collects as a focus for worship
- Celebrating Eucharist

### Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors, such as Les Carter, and our local vicars Chris Hodgekins and Father Jack, in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Canterbury Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: (*see school website for policies*). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Celebration worship	Class worship following whole school plans	Church leader lead whole school worship	Singing and Praise whole school worship	Worship leads – whole school worship

During our worship sessions, we use windows, mirrors and doors to give the children the chance



to explore our school values, life values and world issues. This gives the children a chance to reflect upon issues personally, as a class and further a field whether in school or a wider issue.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles, such as word, symbol, action and emotion, and staff have been given training to ensure that each worship provides a range of creative opportunities including, music, use of video clips, reflection time (in silence), symbols, verses/motivational texts, acting out.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)*
- *Engage* – we share, for example, *(a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)*
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, *(discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)*
- *Send* – we share, for example, *(the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)*

### **Expectations of pupils**

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during lunchtime/ Thursday meetings to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. Our Ethos team have range of responsibilities within the school:

#### Leading Worship

As a team the children plan and lead their own worship once a week. The children also have the daily responsibility of lighting the candles and saying the welcome, closing and prayers on a daily basis.

#### Monitoring

The children have the responsibility of monitoring worship alongside the RE lead within the school.

### **Developing Worship**

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school

and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with all the stakeholders in the school and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury (SIAMS).

### **The legal requirements of collective worship in Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled schools.**

- Be conducted in accordance with the provision of the Trust Deeds of the school and Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England
- The Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship which is in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church
- Arrangements for collective worship, in foundation schools of a religious character, are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consulting with the Headteacher (*DfE Circular 1/94 para 52 & 53*)
- All acts of worship in Church schools must be Christian in character (based on Biblical teachings)
- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdraw) must on 'each school day take part in an act of collective worship'

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

## Appendix 1

### Leading Worship Guide for new members of staff and visitors

#### This is what worship at Brenzett C of E Primary School looks like

- **All teaching and ideas must be Christian and follow the teachings of the Bible and Jesus. All acts of worship must have a Bible story or Bible passage as its focus.**
  - The Leader must try to create a calming and inviting atmosphere conducive to worship, by:
    - Playing worship or quiet reflective music on arrival
    - Set the hall up with 'altar table' table cloth, cross and candle. As the children come into worship they need to leave an aisle space in order for the adult leading to be able to have access to all children when responding to questions.
    - Welcome children by lighting the candle and by saying an Anglican bidding prayer (The Lord be with you...)
  - Children should be given a chance to discuss, in talk partners, share their ideas/answers to a posed wondering question. (I wonder what does respect mean? What does it look like in our school?)
  - Sung worship should be included.
  - There should be a time for children to reflect and think about the key / Bible message.
  - Children should be given opportunity to pray, either personally (silently) or out loud on behalf of the other children.
  - Close with a sending prayer and extinguish the candle.
  - Ethos team to complete worship evaluation form weekly with a different class each week.
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- Collective Worship must take place daily
  - Classes must arrive and be picked up by class teacher / TA promptly.
  - Teachers/ TA's to model behaviour expectations.
  - Children to enter and leave the hall silently and calmly.
  - Children to sit in rows in their classes, year 6 children on the benches.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Leading Celebration Worship**

#### **Celebration worship at Brenzett C of E Primary School includes:**

- Quiet music as children arrive.
- Welcome and bidding prayer
- House Points
- Star of the week / Brenzett hero certificates
- Spelling frame and TTRS certificates
- Prayer
- Song
- Bidding prayer – blow out the candle
- Quiet music to leave