Berkley Church of England VA First School

 Policy for Acts of Collective Worship

**Our vision and values**

We are a small school, with big ideas, adopting a creative approach to ensure that every child is supported in order to flourish and thrive; to see and develop their true potential.

Our vision and ethos of the school is based on the sermon of the mount, Matthew 5:14- 16; “You are the light that gives light to the world. In the same way, let your light shine before others, live so thatthey may see your good works.”

We are children of the community and guided by Faith.

Thus, we are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest standards.

This policy helps to ensure that this happens for all the children in our school, regardless of their age, religion, gender, ethnicity attainment or background.

Rationale

To provide an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988, the Trust Deed of the school and the recommendations of the Diocesan board of Education. It is the school’s contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community,



Aims

To be of Christian character

To take full advantage of the unique opportunity afforded by having a beautiful

and accessible church on our doorstep

To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God

To promote a common ethos and shared values

To contribute to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children

To involve children in Acts of Collective Worship

To support and contribute to other areas of the curriculum

To have a short opportunity for quiet reflection on one aspect of the theme

To reinforce positive attitudes

To explore their own beliefs

To develop community spirit

**E-Safety**

**E-safety is a priority in all our planning and teaching. Learning opportunities are planned to reinforce this message.**

Guidelines

1. An Act of Worship will take place each day. Sometimes these will involve the whole school but on Tuesday’s classes have reflection time and an act of worship in their own classes.

2. The worship will be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all and will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration.

3. The Act of Worship will be taken by members of staff, the Rector, or by carefully chosen visitors. All those responsible for arranging an Act of Worship will be given a copy of the rolling programme.

4. Worship will be shared with the wider Church family at St. Mary’s church, especially through the termly family service involving our pupils and staff

5. Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals of the Church Year and with the curriculum plan of the school year.

6. The Act of Worship will follow a recognisable format.

1. Lengths of worship appropriate to setting.
2. There will be a hymn in an appropriate place which, wherever possible will relate to the theme of the Worship.
3. There will be a quiet time for reflection or a prayer. Prayers may be taken from teachers own resources or children’s own work.
4. The Worship will have a clear focus and often involve pupil participation. The theme will be developed over a period of time.
5. Elements used in the Worship may include music, CD’s, tapes, singing, the organ playing, recorders etc, listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant passages, use of movement, mime, drama and artefacts.
6. At the beginning of Collective Worship we regularly say a range of openings some made up by the children and they respond with their special responses.
7. At the end of Collective Worship the teacher will say a special statement and the children listen but do not respond.
8. Each class takes a turn at leading an Act of Worship session each term – this will be through the Monday Celebratory assemblies
9. Year 4 children lead the Harvest and Easter services
10. Parents are invited to an end-of-term Celebratory act of worship i.e. three times a year

**Weekly format**

**Collective Worship**

At our school Collective Worship takes place daily.

Monday- Class Worship led by the class teacher reflecting on our focus Christian Value

Tuesday-Singing assembly led by the Headteacher learning songs and hymns for the term

Wednesday- Whole school worship led by the pupils and class teachers, Head Teacher linked to our focus Christian Value

Thursday-.Whole school worship in Church led by members of the church community and Headteacher

Friday- Certificate assembly led by the Head teacher. Children are awarded certificates for WOW moments in their learning, reading skills and actions linked to our focus Christian Value

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Headteacher.

**Evaluation**

Teachers ask children about their Acts of Collective, which parts they have enjoyed, what they have learnt and how they use it in their daily lives. These comments are recorded on a sheet to be held in the Collective worship file in the office.

Governors monitor the effectiveness of Collective Worship through their attendance (e.g. Family service) and through their school visits when they talk to children in each class and complete a learning walk, looking closely at the Christian display around the school

**Conclusion**

Children should see the Act of Worship as a place where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part.

Reviewed: Spring 2022

Next review date: Spring 2024