



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed

May 2017

Approved by the Governing Body

Interim Review Date

September 2018

Next Review

May 2019

Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

This policy for Collective Worship is underpinned by our school Mission Statement.

Mission

The mission of Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School is that of Jesus Christ; to build a teaching and learning community where we show due regard for the development and understanding of the uniqueness and dignity of each person, based on the Gospel values of love, justice, caring for others, aspiring to be the best you can be, mutual respect, honesty, acceptance and forgiveness.

As a school community, we will:

- contribute to the development of faith in the school community, recognising that each child comes with different experiences of their own faith and culture, which have value and are to be appreciated and built upon.
- strive to enhance and deepen a child's relationship with God through prayer, worship and liturgy.
- build upon and develop the existing links with homes and parishes, encouraging and developing good relationships with all children and adults who are involved in our school community.
- ensure that the curriculum is appropriate to the perceived needs of the children and that the approach to teaching and learning will always be based on the attitudes and values of the Gospel.

All around our school are signs and symbols of this mission to which the whole school community has contributed and they resonate with the values we promote. These values are embodied in John 10:10 - "**I have come in order that you may have life - life in all its fullness.**" In school, the children show understanding of our school mission through their knowledge of our more child-friendly version of John 10:10 - "**We Love, We Pray, We Learn, We Play.**" In our school community, this underpins all that we do.

*We love, We pray,
We learn, We play.*

The governors and staff of Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Please also refer to Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School is a fully inclusive school, committed to promoting equality. Please refer to Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School's Single Equality Policy.

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1. Rationale

- 1.1 The school community believes that Collective Worship is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Worship will be at the very heart of this Catholic school and will reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.
- 1.2 Prayer may be an individual experience, or if it is an activity with others, may form part of an act of worship.
- 1.3 All liturgies involve the praise, thanksgiving and adoration of God and are, therefore, acts of worship. However, not all worship will be liturgy as it may or may not include symbol and action.
- 1.4 A daily act of worship will be offered for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can either be a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups. Collective worship and assembly can be distinct activities although they will usually form part of the same gathering.
- 1.5 The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.
- 1.6 In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

2. Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

- 2.1 We endorse the belief that collective worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:
 - those who form part of the worshipping community in church;
 - those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church or faith;
 - those from other Christian traditions, or none at all;
 - those from other faith backgrounds.
- 2.2 Collective Worship can be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- 2.3 Worship in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

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3. The Aims of Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

3.1 The aims of collective worship at our school are to provide an opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to contemplate something of the mystery of God, giving thanks and praise to Him.
- to reflect on and promote spiritual and moral values in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- to relate spiritual and moral values to the daily life of the school.
- to develop and deepen awareness of the Liturgical Year and to celebrate the liturgical life of the Church.
- to explore their own beliefs.
- to experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit.
- to develop a common ethos and shared values.
- to enrich religious experience.
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- to develop the prayer life of the school community by reinforcing prayers which are part of the Catholic tradition.
- to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to participate fully.
- to take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'
- to actively participate in worship.
- (for children) to develop independence in planning and leading liturgies for others.

3.2 The aims of assembly at our school are:

- to encourage and promote the relationship of each one of us with Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour.
- to promote Christian ethics through a particular focus upon key elements of Catholic teaching and to deepen our understanding of it.
- to provide experience of collective acts of Christian worship with particular emphasis on prayer, reflection and worship in recognition of all that we do together.
- to promote a sense of belonging to a thriving and active Christian community.
- to encourage a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for the quality of our community's collective worship. This means involving as many different members of the school community as possible.
- to encourage the school community to look outwards to recognise a diverse range of Christian experiences in many walks of life both within different denominations and within different ethnic cultures and to learn to value such [in a multi-ethnic society].
- to share our concerns about major issues of the day and place them in a Christian perspective.
- to provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy worship, but to recognise that is not spectator entertainment, but participative community activity that requires spiritual involvement.
- to celebrate the achievements of individual members of the school community.

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4. Principles of Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- give glory and honour to God.
- be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character.
- give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds, in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the church.

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- be short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life e.g. 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2).
- Be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of settings and in a variety of groupings in order to help personalise the experience.

5. Organisation of Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

Annual Collective Worship

FS / KS1 2 class liturgies with a priest (when available); parents welcome.

KS2 1 Reconciliation service
1 class mass; parents welcome.
1 mass with another class; parents welcome.

Weekly Collective Worship

	Worship	TIME
Monday	Whole school assembly (HT)	9:10 – 9:30
Tuesday	Class Assembly for whole school or class liturgy/mass or daily Act of Worship in classroom.	Varies (usually 9:30 or 10:30 depending on priest)
Wednesday	Class Assembly for whole school or class liturgy/mass or Daily Act of Worship in classroom.	Varies (usually 9:30 or 10:30 depending on priest)
Thursday	Based on Sunday's gospel: FS / Key Stage 1 assembly Year 3/4 assembly Year 5/6 assembly	10:50 – 11:00 9:05 – 9:15 13:20 – 13:30
Friday	Key Stage 2 Sharing Assembly FS /Key Stage 1 Sharing Assembly Governors' Assembly (Half termly)	9:10 3:00 Varies

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6. Implementation

6.1 An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or class groupings) will vary from day to day.

6.2 Class prayers, enclosed by the Sign of the Cross, will begin and end each morning session. The Morning Offering will be the focus of morning prayers, grace before and after meals will be said at lunchtimes and the day will end with evening prayers.

6.3 At Key Stage 1, worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times;
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship

6.4 At Key Stage 2, worship includes:

- short, simple liturgies and prayer times
- occasional liturgies reflecting the Introductory Rites of the Mass and/or the Liturgy of the Word; or the Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite
- the occasional celebration of sacramental liturgies
- a range of types of prayer, including meditation
- a range of styles of celebration
- opportunities for pupils to take an active part in worship
- opportunities for pupils to take leadership roles in worship

6.5 The Headteacher leads one whole school assembly each week. Different children may be asked to support and help in the delivery of these assemblies.

6.6 We show respect for God and one another in the manner in which we behave and respond during assembly times.

6.7 We allow a diverse range of worship style including prayers, singing, dancing, instrumental playing, drama, personal reflection and listening.

7. The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

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- following a structure with reference to the church's seasons, 'Come and See', significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship.
- involving consultation with appropriate parties e.g. parish priests and reference to school aims and policies.
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community.
- with a variety of styles such as reflection, reflection, meditation, travelling cribs, story, prayer areas, prayer trees etc., processions etc.)
- to include stories from the Old Testament, as well as Christian virtues and have opportunities to lead/be led by other pupils.
- to integrate school values and statements to live by support the delivery of key messages as appropriate.
- to encourage children of other faiths to share their faith and culture. Through headteacher assemblies, class Acts of Worship, class assemblies and the use of an outdoor prayer space, children will be given the opportunity to be proud of their culture through sharing their experiences in a prayerful context.
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to participate, prepare, organise and lead worship with growing competence during their time at our school.

A sample of plans are kept on file by the R.E. Co-ordinator and Headteacher.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

The school's provision of worship will be evaluated periodically to ensure that it meets the needs of all pupils and to determine whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and developing abilities in organising and leading worship in accordance with the school improvement planning cycle. This may include observation, scrutiny of planning of worship and pupil interview.

9. Resources

- Box of candles, cloths in liturgical colours, artefacts, natural objects e.g. pebbles (located in staffroom).
- Quiet music CDs (located in staffroom).
- Bibles, teacher's books/library of worship resources (located in staffroom).
- Sacred vessels for use in mass (R.E. Co-ordinator).
- 'Let us Pray' resource for teachers.
- Designated worship focus area in each classroom, which may include a display, is changed regularly either by the teacher or by the children. The children are initially guided by the teacher to create a prayer focus area but eventually are given the opportunity to select their own resources to create this space.

Our resources are continually reviewed and updated.

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We recognise that people are our greatest resource and that teachers 'take the place of Christ' in relation to the children's education in the Catholic Faith. Therefore, we work to promote respect, love, understanding, compassion, kindness, dedication and personal growth.

10. Voluntary Worship and Retreats

Other opportunities for prayer or retreat are offered at various times of the year, for example:

- Chaplaincy team activities
- Lenten prayer corner
- Easter Garden
- Outside prayer spaces
- Rosary Club
- Prayer Club
- Advent prayer corner

11. The Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will normally be celebrated with children whose faith development has reached an appropriate stage. The same general principles will apply to planning a Eucharistic celebration as other acts of school worship, therefore opportunities for children to participate will be maximized. When preparing these celebrations reference will be made to appropriate support materials and advice, for example, "The Welcome Table" and "Planning Masses with Children" as a basis for our practice.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. In school therefore, the 'Liturgy of the Word', rather than the Eucharist will be the norm. However, at certain times of the year we celebrate mass as a whole school, e.g. Harvest, Holy days and parents and parishioners are made welcome.

12. Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy team is made up of a group of children from Year 6 who volunteer to assist in leading religious activities during Advent, Lent and Eastertide. They provide support to younger children taking part in these activities and will occasionally design Acts of Worship to lead with the younger children in the school. In addition to this, they will support the R.E. Co-ordinator and the Headteacher in assemblies by reading, playing music and acting.

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13. School and Community

13.1 Parents and carers and parishioners are invited to participate in school masses, liturgies and assemblies.

13.2 We try to develop in the children a sense of care and concern towards other people in the community. We do this by involving the children in charity fundraising events throughout the year, giving them opportunities to have more ownership of their fundraising efforts in terms of them choosing a charity to donate to and choosing how funds will be raised.

13.3 Through these and other activities the children become aware of the needs of other people both near and far and develop sensitivity, generosity and a sense of responsibility towards their neighbours.

14. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Through teaching religious education in our school opportunities for spiritual development are integrated into the whole process e.g. daily prayer, reflection, etc. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life and our eternal destiny. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions in the light of the teachings of Christ and of the Church. We enhance their social development by helping them to build a sense of identity in a multicultural society. Children explore issues of religious faith and values and, in so doing, they develop their knowledge and understanding of the cultural context of their own lives.

15. The Role of Governors

Governors are responsible for the religious character of the school and ensuring that the Catholic ethos is promoted and evident. They monitor this through:

- visits to the school.
- attending collective worship gatherings.
- reports from the Headteacher to governors.
- the R.E. link governor.

16. The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

Lucy Gunton (Assistant Headteacher) supported by Suzanne Henry (Headteacher).

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17. Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Coordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the relevant staff and governors every two years. The foundation Governors in particular play a most important role in doing this.

Governors will systematically monitor the Catholicity and provision of and response to worship for pupils as part of their school visits.

Last Reviewed: May 2017

Next Review: May 2019