

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School



### Our Mission

*I have come in order that you may have life—life in all its fullness (John 10:10).*

***We Love, We Pray, We Learn, We Play.***

Values: Love God; Aspire to be your best; Be honest; Forgive; Care

Approved by:	Date:
Signed:	
Scheduled date of next review:	March 2022

## Our School 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 are committed to:

- contributing 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.
- striving to enhance and deepen a child's relationship with God through prayer, worship and liturgy.
- building 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.
- ensuring 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.

***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.***

# I. The Nature of Collective Worship

1.1 We believe that collective Worship names and celebrates God's presence in our lives. In our Catholic school, it is particularly concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. Collective Worship 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.

1.2 Regardless of faith or belief, as part of our commitment to community cohesion, all stakeholders and the wider school community are invited to attend Mass and other important liturgical and non-liturgical events at Bishop Ellis.

## 2. Legal Requirements

2.1 As set out in the Education Reform Act (1988), collective Worship should be '*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.*' At Bishop Ellis, collective Worship is held in a Catholic context and focuses on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Catholic Church. Where collective Worship involves elements of the teachings of other world faiths (Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism), links will always be made to Catholic teaching.

2.2 We acknowledge that it is a legal requirement for there to be a daily act of worship offered for all pupils. At Bishop Ellis, this can take place at any time during the school day and will be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups (class group/year group/key stage group). **An assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement** as Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

2.3 We fulfil our legal requirement to offer a daily act of worship for all pupils through Headteacher led Gospel Worship, class led Worship, class Masses, and whole school Masses, class liturgies, class Worship and Adoration.

2.4 Daily acts of worship are not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. Collective worship falls outside of the 10% curriculum time allocated to RE as outlined by the Diocese.

2.5 In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader.

### 3. Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School

3.1 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.

3.2 Collective Worship can be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

3.3 Worship in this school is an integral part of school life and central to the Catholic tradition.

### 4. The Aims of Collective Worship

4.1 Collective Worship at Bishop Ellis aims to provide an opportunity for all staff and pupils:

- ❖ to encounter Christ in their daily lives
- ❖ 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 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 reinforce 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.'

### 5. The Place of Collective Worship in the life of Our School

5.1 We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it. This is inclusive of:

- ❖ those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- ❖ those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- ❖ those from other Christian traditions - or none
- ❖ those from other faith backgrounds.

## 6. Principles of Collective Worship

6.1 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.

6.2 In order to do this, celebrations will:

- ❖ be child-led and child-friendly
- ❖ be kept small where possible, and appropriate, to personalise the experience
- ❖ be time-sensitive and appropriately paced
- ❖ be simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of settings and in a variety of groupings
- ❖ be engaging, using a range of dance, drama, readings, reflection, song and focal points
- ❖ be dignified and respectful; children will be expected to behave reverently and engage fully in moments of silence and reflection, and participate fully in hymns and prayers.

## 7. Timetable for Collective Worship

7.1 Weekly Collective Worship

<b>Monday</b>	Whole school Gospel Worship (HT)	10:10–10:30
	Key Stage 1 Hymn Practice	13:20-13:40
	Key Stage 2 Hymn Practice	14:50-15:10
<b>Tuesday</b>	Child-led Worship (class) for whole school	10:10-10:30
<b>Wednesday</b>	Class liturgy/Mass or	9:30 or 10:30 (dependent on the priest)
	Class Act of Worship in classroom	Varies according to timetable in each class
<b>Thursday</b>	Based on the upcoming Sunday Gospel:	
	EYFS / Key Stage 1 Gospel Worship	10:50 – 11:00
	Year 3/4 Gospel Worship	9:05 – 9:15
	Year 5/6 Gospel Worship	13:20 – 13:30
<b>Friday</b>	Key Stage 2 Praise Worship (linked to School Values)	9:10
	EYFS /Key Stage 1 Praise Worship (linked to School Values)	15:00
	Governors' Praise Worship (half termly)	9:30 or 15:30

7.2 Parents and Governors and members of the wider school community are invited to collective Acts of Worship such as Adoration, liturgies and Masses throughout the year, including Class Masses. *Parents are invited to share in their experiences by completing our reflective journal, which documents all collective worship across the school.*

## 8. Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

8.1 Collective Worship is planned:

- ❖ following a structure with reference to the Church's liturgical seasons, the 'Come and See' Religious Education programme, significant dates and the curriculum. **Scripture will be the focus in most acts of worship**
- ❖ in consultation with appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies
- ❖ with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- ❖ to promote the ethos and mission of the school
- ❖ to develop pupils' skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship independently.

## 9. Recording Collective Worship

9.1 A record of Collective Worship is maintained through:

- ❖ a record of displays, samples of children's prayers, reflections, photographs and other contributions
- ❖ a liturgy planner which notes themes, leaders, pupil groupings and resources (from September 2020)
- ❖ the class liturgy folder in each classroom (from September 2020)
- ❖ reflective journals
- ❖ Chaplaincy displays around the school.

## 10. Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship

10.1 Children self-evaluate class forms of worship and record feedback on their planning sheet. A member of staff completes an evaluation form for all whole school forms of worship, which are used to inform future planning. The Chaplaincy team meets regularly to evaluate liturgies, and invite classes to provide feedback to help improve future liturgies.

10.2 Monitoring of parent's views is maintained through the use of a reflective journal and parent questionnaires. The purpose of the reflective journal is to record the thoughts and reflections of our community relating to school events, communal worship and visits during the school year. Pupils, staff, and visiting members of the school community can add their reflections in whatever form they choose.

10.3 The designated Governor for Religious Education and Collective Worship is to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship within the school, and to liaise with the Head Teacher and R.E. Subject Leader.

## 11. 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

## 12. The Eucharist

12.1 Eucharistic celebrations in school will highlight a special occasion and will be appropriate to the children's age and understanding of their faith. This will be led by a member of the Clergy, along with the Chaplaincy team or pupils from a selected year group.

12.2 Children in Year 6 will experience Adoration in Church at least once during the school year.

## 13. Chaplaincy

13.1 The Chaplaincy team is made up of a group of children from across Key Stage 2 who volunteer to assist in leading religious activities during the school year, but especially during Advent, Lent and Eastertide.

13.2 The Chaplaincy team provides support to younger children taking part in the activities named above and will occasionally design Acts of Worship to lead with the younger children in the school.

13.3 The Chaplaincy team supports the Catholic Life of the school by assisting the Headteacher during collective worship by reading, playing music and acting.

## 14. The Right of Withdrawal

14.1 We expect all children to attend and participate fully in liturgy and Mass. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

14.2 The Headteacher will maintain a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

## **15. Policy Monitoring and Review**

15.1 This policy is monitored by the R.E. Subject Leader and designated Governor and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and Governors every two years.