

# ST BARNABAS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*We are a global community, learning and growing together*

*'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up' 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

(ALSO KNOWN AS ASSEMBLY OR CW)

Our values: Encouragement, Friendship, Respect, Responsibility Truthfulness

Equalities Act 2010 [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents)

Education reform act 1988

### **Context**

We believe Collective worship (usually known as assembly) is central to the life of our school. It is the coming together of the pupils, staff and others who follow a variety of faiths and none in an environment that gives everyone the opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision. It is an expression of our inclusive vision that shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship regardless of their faith or no faith.

Responsibility for Collective worship lies with the governing body.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate and create a sense of occasion for-
  - ✓ Christian seasons and festivals (including Ash Wednesday, Easter, the Church's patron saint day and Christmas) and those of other faiths such as Diwali, Purim, Yom Kippur etc.
  - ✓ Pupils' and adults' achievements
- Experience the opportunity to pray, be still and to reflect.
- Create a reflective approach and consider the big questions in life including via P4C
- Develop as a multi-faith community and help children think about religious writings, beliefs and festivals of the major religions.
- Feel safe and affirmed
- Nurture links with the community

Collective worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- Nurture spiritual and personal growth
- Focus on positive messages for everyone regardless of faith, race, ethnicity gender or sexual orientation.
- Enable participants to consider moral questions
- Enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy for the common good in school, locally, nationally and globally.
- Encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own and others' cultural heritage

### **Participation**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of places: in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. It maybe whole school, key stage or class. On occasions Collective worship takes place in St Barnabas Church.

### **Leading Collective worship**

Collective worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the Church, local faiths and the wider community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are invited to contribute to Collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our policy. Leaders from faiths within the local area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote

respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths or none in the case of Humanists. At all times the emphasis is on inclusivity and is not an opportunity for proselytizing.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

Our acts of Collective worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer discussion, reflection and song.

Prayer maybe part of Collective worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers maybe addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England and other faiths. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared.

Our Collective worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into future planning.

Each week, Collective worship follows a regular pattern, including celebration, singing, visits from the clergy and lay ministers from St Barnabas Church, visits from other faith leaders and regular assemblies led by the headteacher and other staff members.

### **A legal note**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deeds, and Instrument of Government (2015).

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective worship is a valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Collective worship does not assume belief unlike corporate worship which does.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of Collective worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher. If after discussion parents wish to withdraw their children this must be put in writing to the headteacher.

Children who do not attend whole school collective worship will complete values based activities led by a member of staff.

Signed\_Rupert McNeile Chair of governors

Date April 2020  
Interim review 3 months after full re-opening.

Date of review March 2023