

# **BILBROOK CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

## **1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Collective Worship at Bilbrook Church of England Middle School plays a central role in the life of our school. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which is committed to developing all our members as lifelong learners, and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

Collective worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos and values of the school and to the school's distinctive Christian character. The aims of collective worship in this school are based on the broad principles that collective worship should be inclusive, educational, God centred and affirming Christian beliefs, and that it must honour the Anglican foundation of the school.

## **2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The legal requirement in all Anglican schools is for the daily act of collective worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

We also take into account DCFS legislation that worship will be:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils, at the request of their parents, and for staff.

## **3 AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The main aims of collective worship in this school are to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which belief in God is recognised and respected
- foster a respectful attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for meaning and values in life
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the multi-cultural nature of our school community)
- provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff and appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus
- recognise and respect the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and foster charitable works
- be challenging and inspiring
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response

Bilbrook Church of England Middle School  
Collective Worship Policy reviewed May 2010

#### **4 MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community, have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The worship policy articulates the management and delivery of collective worship.

The Headteacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept centrally for whole-school worship and by the Key Stage leaders for the key stage and year group assemblies.

The Headteacher also has responsibility for the ongoing development of collective worship.

The school's Senior Leadership Team and the Foundation Governors monitor collective worship and report to governors.

#### **5 CURRENT PRACTICE**

The pattern for worship each week is as follows:

Two days a week: An act of worship in form groups, led by the form tutor. The focus is the school prayer and the Lord's Prayer

2 days a week: Whole school worship in the hall led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

One day per week: Key Stage assembly, led by Key Stage leaders and form tutors

In addition the school worships in Church once each half term, and there is a Eucharist in church once a term.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis. These include our Priest in Charge, the Gideons, representatives of charities to collect money raised by the school, parents, and other people as appropriate.

Acts of Worship in form groups twice a week are short, and aim to set an appropriate tone for the day in school, and use either the school prayer or the Lord's Prayer as the focus. Monday form tutor time is then spent checking homework diaries and any communication from parents. Wednesday form tutor time is for paired reading, class reading and individual reading.

Key Stage assemblies are the responsibility of Key Stage leaders, who organise a rota of form tutors to deliver the assemblies.

Worship in church is for the whole school. Participation in the termly Eucharist is optional.

Acts of worship include the following elements:

- Some shared experience

- An opportunity to deepen the understanding and stretch the imagination of pupils

- A chance to reflect

- Opportunities to respond in some way

Acts of worship will include some or all of the following activities

Music

Singing hymns and songs

Readings from the Bible and other sources

Prayers and times to reflect

Participation of some or all pupils, eg in readings, answering questions etc

Some thoughts expressed by a member of staff, pupils, or visitors, for reflection

The programme for the year contains the following:

- The Christian and Anglican calendar
- Important festivals and traditions in other religions as appropriate (eg Ramadan, Eid ul Fitr, Diwali, Hannukah, the Passover)
- National and international events, eg Children in Need; Comic Relief; Black History month; national anti-bullying week; Bonfire Night, and so on
- Other themes of topical relevance as they occur (eg world events such as disasters, or celebrations; people in the news; sports events, and so on)
- Local events and events in school (eg the start of the school year; leavers' assemblies; charity events, and so on)
- Praise and success worship (house point certificates; sports successes; music awards, and so on)
- The life of Jesus
- Values and morals affirmed in school
- Other themes as they occur, eg faith in action, people who have challenged and inspired, every-day experience which has a spiritual focus, and so on

## **6 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher as worship co-ordinator in the school to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the worship policy, in consultation with the Senior Leadership team and Foundation Governors.

Monitoring will involve feedback from staff, parents and pupils.

Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings.

As appropriate, changes will be made and new developments introduced into the practice.

## **Appendix: Programme of Anglican events and school events**

### **Autumn Term**

New beginnings  
Harvest festival  
Black History Month (October)  
All Saints Day  
Bonfire Night  
Remembrance Day  
Children in Need  
St Andrew's Day (November 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Advent  
Christmas

### **Spring Term**

New Year  
Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27<sup>th</sup>)  
Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent  
St Patrick's Day (March 17<sup>th</sup>)  
Mothering Sunday  
Easter week

### **Summer Term**

St George's Day (April 23<sup>rd</sup>)  
World Red Cross Day (May 8<sup>th</sup>)  
Ascension Day  
Pentecost  
Father's Day  
St Swithin's Day (July 15<sup>th</sup>)  
Leavers' assembly