



Bishop Chavasse Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approval Arrangements

All statutory policies in the Trust are ultimately the responsibility of the Trust Board. To enable it to discharge this responsibility appropriately and in collaboration with the constituent schools, the Trust Board will

1. set a full Trust wide policy,
2. set a 'policy principles' document (a framework within which Headteachers develop a full and appropriately customised policy),
3. or delegate to Headteachers or Local Governing Bodies (LGB) the power to develop their own policy.

This is a Level 3 Policy against the Trust Governance Plan.

Review Body:	LGB
Approved:	January 2024
Written:	January 2024
Next review:	December 2026
Review Period:	3 years

1 Introduction

At Bishop Chavasse Primary School, pupils and their families can expect a high-quality planned programme of Collective Worship. Collective Worship is the beating heart of our school and is a key component in helping us deliver our distinctively Christian vision.

Our school vision

Bishop Chavasse Church of England School Policies are all underpinned by our school parable 'The Wise and the Foolish Builder'.

Bishop Chavasse School values every wonderfully and uniquely created child and adult; inspiring everyone to fulfil their potential, as we achieve excellence together. As Jesus teaches through the parable of the house on the rock: we grow in wisdom, supported by the compassion of God to establish firm, honest foundations on which every child can build.

2. Collective Worship - an expression of the school's Christian vision

Our Collective Worship encourages pupils and staff to:

- Understand Christian values and beliefs
- Reflect on how Christian values and beliefs link to their own faith and beliefs, within their own life and the local community.
- To be empathetic of others and aware of different feelings and opinions.
- Demonstrate belief in being able to create and prepare and deliver collective worship.
- Take risks by having the opportunity to present to an audience
- Show-case a different set of skills such as: art, music, drama.
- Promote British values of respect, tolerance, liberty and the rule of law and help teach why these are important.
- Be proud of their achievements as learners and as people and celebrate together within the school community.

Collective Worship at our school – living out our vision

At Bishop Chavasse Primary School worship is an important time, which supports our Christian ethos within our school and brings our community together, every day. Children and staff are immersed in a variety of different worships that delve deeper into our values and Christian spirit. All of our acts of worship are Christian and we pay attention to the Church of England's guidance for collective worship that worship be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, CofE (2021)

Our link Churches

We visit our local link churches, St Stephen's and St Peter and St Paul, at special times of the year (including Harvest, Christmas and Easter) and for our year group led services, which are based on each year group's values. The children are an integral part in planning, preparing and leading these events, with a high level of involvement from the head boy and girl, the leading lights and choir. In addition to visiting our link churches, we invite members of their teams to our school every Tuesday to lead worships.

Collective Worship pattern & Structure

The Collective worship at our school aims to be inclusive, invitational, inspiring and rooted in scripture, following the Diocese of Rochester Collective Worship Scheme. Our Collective Worship pattern may change from time to time. Normally, the following people lead the Acts of Worship:

Monday: Whole school worship led by a member of the school's Wider Leadership Team.

Tuesday: A member of one of our link churches leads our worship.

Wednesday: Whole school worship led by class teachers.

Thursday: singing practice led by the school's music co-ordinator.

Friday: Celebration worship, led by our Year 6 worship team; Usually including Head Teacher Heroes, Golden Book, Chavasse shields and birthdays as well as a celebration of sporting events outside of school and other awards.

Liturgy

A pupil is invited to open our Worship by lighting the candle and saying:

“We light the candle because Jesus says...”

This is followed with the voluntary response, “I am the light of the world.”

Another pupil is invited to open the bible and say:

“Christians believe...”

This is followed with the voluntary response, “The Bible is God’s word.”

Christian Giving and Courageous Advocacy

Our worships can also be dedicated to finding out more about charitable organisations such as: Red Nose Day, Children in Need and Hospice in the Weald or learning about our link school, Matongoro Primary School in Tanzania. This affords the opportunity for outside speakers to enrich our worship experience and for our children to practice giving which is a key Christian principle. Whenever possible, our worship lead will plan these worships to link to our Christian characteristic monthly themes. These types of worships can also be led by our Leaders of Light or body of House Captains.

Monthly Themes

September – Growth Mindset

October – Curiosity

November – Wisdom

December - Hope

January – Creativity

February - Compassion

March – Forgiveness

April – Respect

May – Honesty

June – Unity

July & August – Courage

Our Collective worship follows this format:

GATHER – *Meeting each other/playing a part in school community/preparing to meet God*

- Quiet music/video clip playing is played as children enter.
- Two pupil volunteers are selected to light the focal candle and lead our liturgy, as outlined in the earlier section.

ENGAGE – *encountering Jesus and stories of the Bible, listening for God’s message for us, listening to message linked to the theme and practising relevant hymns.*

- The worship will explore the focus **Bible** passage, sharing the **message** through a range of methods, including: drama, objects, readings, talk partners, artwork, music and video clip.
- Questions to promote thought are regularly included, such as: *I wonder what you think this story might teach Christians or us as a school community? I wonder why Jesus told this story? I wonder if this story makes you think of a situation in your life? I wonder why Christians might think this story is special?*

RESPOND – *encouraging independent thinkers/reflection time/discussion time*

- In worship, pupils are encouraged to discuss, question and think – *I wonder what you might **do** differently after hearing the story today? I wonder how you **felt** after watching that video clip. I wonder what you can do to help/care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend.*
- Time is dedicated to being still and reflecting.
- Worships always finish with a prayer.

SEND – *loving and serving one another and to make a difference/sent out with God’s blessing*

- The thought, verse, prayer or question displayed during the reflection will remain displayed to enable children to **continue** their thinking and spur them into action.
- A pupil will put out the candle.
- Music is played on departure.

Participation

Collective Worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of worship is provided for all pupils every day. Adult members of each class and children in school attend the Act of Worship.

Behaviour

The good behaviour of children entering and leaving the school hall is vital to establishing an atmosphere conducive to worship. All members of staff have a responsibility to ensure that behaviour is good and that the hall is silent. Behaviour during worship is managed positively and through high expectations of good conduct.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation take place using monitoring guidelines provided by the Diocese of Rochester together with the Tenax Trust's ethos and worship evaluation template, with the school's own formats for recording, reflecting on and evaluating worships. These templates, include evaluation sheets that pupils are encouraged to use to help the school monitor and further develop the acts of worship.

The Religious Education Leader and the Headteacher, alongside staff, will review this policy every two years. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

In addition to using the worship evaluation template, children have the opportunity to reflect and record their reflections either individually or as a class through their class RE books or via the class thought boxes.

4 Inclusion and withdrawal

As a Church of England school our learning for all our children is deeply and overtly Christian, although, as an inclusive community, we also understand and respect the needs of families from other faith backgrounds. From the time of the 1944 Education Act, parents have had the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. We as a school are obliged to comply with a request from a parent to withdraw their child and parents are not required to give their reasons for wanting to do so.

However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we would hope that all children admitted will participate fully in collective worship, understanding that their views and beliefs can form part of our discussions and learning. We encourage anyone wishing to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, to discuss this with the Headteacher before making their decision.

References

CofE (2021) – Church of England Education Office – Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring – Collective Worship in Church of England Schools <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>