

Collective Worship Policy

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



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Prepared by: EP

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Policy Updates	
Version Number	Changes
1.0	New Policy

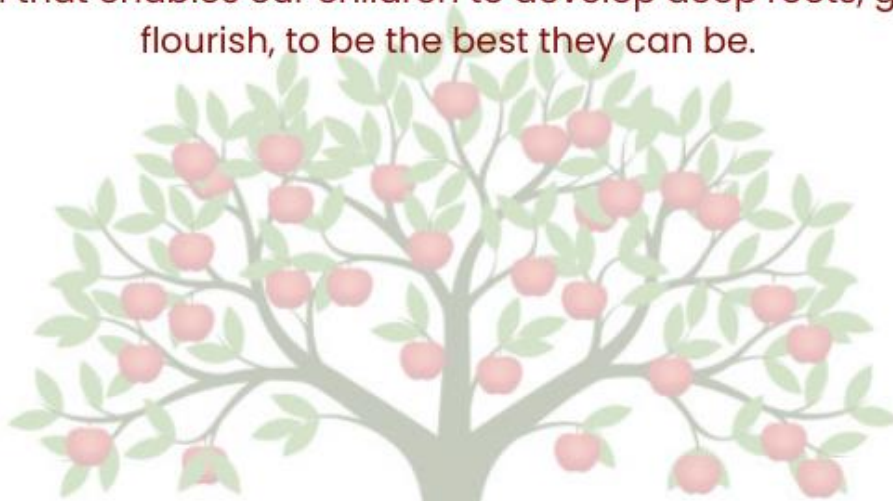
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St Bartholomew's Vision

To be a loving and nurturing Christian school community, providing the rich soil that enables our children to develop deep roots, grow and flourish, to be the best they can be.



Our Motto

Nurture, Grow, Flourish

Keep your roots deep in Jesus and have your lives built on Him.

Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught.

Always be thankful. Col 2:7

Our Values

- Courage
- Creativity
- Joy
- Kindness
- Respect

Policy Statement

At St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Christian Vision and values.

Nurture, Grow, Flourish

St Bartholomew's vision

To be a loving and nurturing Christian school community, providing the rich soil that enables our children to develop deep roots, grow and flourish to be the best they can be.

Worship is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship in school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church leaders and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We identify the values of **Courage, Creativity, Joy, Kindness, and Respect** as our key values.

Our vision is grounded in our bible reference:

"Keep your roots deep in Jesus and have your lives built on Him. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught. Always be thankful." Colossians 2:7

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence, leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirements stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday: Whole school worship led by a member of our Church team

Tuesday: Whole school worship – usually led by the headteacher

Wednesday: Whole school 'Songs for Worship' with prayer/reflection time.

Thursday: Class worship - with input from the children.

Friday: Celebration worship – usually led by the headteacher. Children are rewarded for demonstrating our values and working hard in other curriculum areas.

The worship co-ordinator plans the annual programme for worship which incorporates the Liturgical cycle, the Trinitarian nature of God, our Christian Vision and Values with Biblical texts at the heart.

The themes for Monday's collective worship are planned by the Vicar, after discussion with the worship co-ordinator. The theme is always Bible based and usually fits in with our half termly themes.

The themes for Tuesday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and/or current events. This worship is usually led by the Headteacher.

'Songs for Worship' follows the same format as our other collective worship to ensure that it is more than simply a 'hymn practice'. The use of our key elements of worship (e.g. candles lit, reflective music etc.) help us to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new

songs and hymns as well as learning them. The songs chosen reflect our Christian Value for the half term.

Class Worship, which takes place each Thursday at a time to suit each individual class, gives each class the opportunity to discuss and reflect more deeply on the half termly value or to reflect on current issues in the world using Picture news. The children are encouraged to participate actively, often using special objects and artefacts to help them focus (e.g. prayer stones, candles etc.) Towards the end of the half term an age-appropriate creative class worship is planned and led by the children, to enable them to reflect on what they have learnt and express their own thoughts and ideas. This often involves music, liturgy, silence, stories, prayers and reflection time. The children also use drama and art to express themselves.

Fridays are our Celebration Worship where we gather as a school to celebrate the children's achievements both in and outside school. Teachers will identify children who have demonstrated both the attributes of a "St Bartholomew's learner" and our key values. These children receive a special certificate to celebrate their achievement. This is still regarded as an act of worship and follows the format listed below.

Format of Worship

Each act of whole school collective worship follows a particular format which the school community has developed together.

The worship format includes a greeting, lighting of the candle, prayers (including the Lord's Prayer), a song/hymn and a sending out. We also use the window, mirror, door strategy to broaden and deepen understanding about spiritual learning.

LEARNING: Symbolised by a window. The learning element is when the Bible text is 'opened up' using a particular creative medium.

REFLECTING: Symbolised by the mirror. This element provides an opportunity for everyone to take time to consider how what they have heard, seen or felt has resonated with them or challenged them. For many centuries, stilling and centering have been central to Christian spirituality and in particular to prepare the heart and mind for prayer.

RESPONDING: Symbolised by a door. This element is sometimes known as the 'sending' part of an act of worship. It provides an opportunity to consider how those present might want to respond to what they have experienced and step out (as if through a door)

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including 'Songs for Worship.' A range of prayers are used, including those written by the children. The Lord's Prayer is said at every worship. They are introduced in an appropriate manner and children are encouraged to close their eyes and put their hands together if this helps them to focus on prayer time.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said in the hall and is often led by one of the children:

***For what we are about to receive,
May the Lord make us truly thankful,
Amen***

Each class will also end the day in prayer:

***Help us to do the things we should,
To be to others kind and good,
In all we do at work or play
To grow more loving every day.
Amen***

The school has a Prayer basket. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and pop them into the basket. These may be related to the value for the half term or be personal prayers.

The classes have devised their own prayer and reflection practices – some use prayer boxes, prayer trees and prayer stones.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance, and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring.

A file is kept with all the worship planning and other documents inside. Reflection Journals are used to monitor and evaluate impact of class worship as well as recording pupil voice; this is used to inform future planning.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Bartholomew's ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge.

St Bartholomew's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues.

Parents, relatives, and friends are invited to our special services in Church and school. The governing body has established link governor roles and, as a result of this, the RE & Worship co-ordinator and link governor meet half termly to discuss various aspects of worship. This ensures an effective line of communication between the co-ordinator and the governing body. The worship Co-ordinator also provides a termly report for Governors on worship and RE. The worship Co-ordinator and the Christian Diocesan Advisor meet regularly for updates, training, and monitoring of RE and worship.