

Collective Worship Policy



Brailes C of E Primary School

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At Brailes C of E Primary School we recognise that the daily act of Collective Worship is distinct from Religious Education and that this is intended to promote the spiritual development of all our children. Collective Worship provides the opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our school community and the world in which we live.
- 1.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', as a Church of England School we normally base our Collective Worship's explicitly on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church.
- 1.3 Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School seeks to reflect the traditions and tenets of the Anglican Church which encompass the Trust Deeds union with the National Society. However we will always conduct Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all the members of our school.
- 1.4 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold Collective Worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in our school and the wider community.
- 1.5 It is the responsibility of the Associate Headteacher, Executive Headteacher and the Governing Body to see that the school's policy and guidance for Collective Worship are carried out.

2. THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

- 2.1 The 1998 Education Act gives parents the legal right to withdraw their children from parts of or all of Collective Worship. Parents will therefore be given access to this policy so that they may make an informed decision. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for withdrawing children.
- 2.2 If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.
- 2.3 The Associate Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

3. SCHOOL ETHOS

- 3.1 At Brailes C of E Primary School we believe that acts of worship are an integral part of a broad and enriched curriculum to which all of our children are entitled. We always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here.

3.2 At Brailes C of E Primary School Collective Worship seeks to:

- **Nourish those of the Christian faith.**
- **Encourage those of other faiths.**
- **Challenge those of no faith.**

3.3 Collective Worship at Brailes will promote the school's core Christian values:



3.4 All acts of worship are an important part of the life in our school community and allow the children to understand their place within the wider community and the world.

3.5 Worship is a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth. For many people worship involves commitment to a belief in God, however it can have a much broader inclusive meaning. It can be a form of human activity when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us. It should enable children to explore and reflect upon feelings that occur out of experience.

3.6 Believing in ourselves, each other and the light of God. Belonging and lighting the way for a united family. Aspiring to be the light for ourselves, each other and our world. This is our Christian school vision at Brailes CE Primary School which together with our core Christian Values of trust, respect, forgiveness, peace and courage shapes everything we do in our school community; every single one of us made in the image of God without exception or exclusion.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School is:

- **Inclusive** - engages everyone present in his or her own way.
- **Curricular** - makes appropriate links with the curriculum, RE policy and class work.
- **Educational** - develops children's ideas about God.
- **Stimulating and reflective** - increases children's awareness of God through varied experiences.
- **Central to school life** - it gathers together and offers to God the ethos, life and work of the school.

4.2 Our central aims of Collective Worship are to:

- Enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition.
- Lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship and foster understanding and respect of those of different faiths.
- Use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth.
- Provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, and the impact of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives.
- Use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship.
- Encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship.
- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God.

4.3 We believe that good practice in Collective Worship will enable pupils to:

- Use and promote the core Christian values of the school;
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the spiritual dimension of life;
- Develop a moral and caring attitude and code of conduct;
- Develop openness and empathy;
- Experience a feeling of togetherness and sharing;
- Explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy;
- Provide opportunities to reflect on stories from the Bible and link learning to aspects
 - of everyday life;
- Celebrate special occasions with a focus on Christian festivals;
- Celebrate the work and achievements of themselves and others;
- Understand and appreciate the diversity of faiths in Britain;
- Think of the needs of others;
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community;

- Pause for reflection and/or prayer;
- Develop a sense of sharing, unity and belonging;
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community;
- Experience stillness and quiet;
- Respond to issues raised in Collective Worship with compassion and sensitivity.

5. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Collective worship must be daily for all pupils unless their parents have decided to withdraw them. In these cases, as already stated, these pupils must be supervised by a member of staff.
- 5.2 Collective Worship may be at any time of the day and in whatever groupings. At Brailes C of E Primary School whole school Collective Worship takes place daily in the school hall or on occasions, outside. When whole school worship is not possible on a particular day, due to other curriculum events, Class Worship takes place in classrooms or outside.
- 5.3 We aim to create an atmosphere of calmness prior to and during Collective Worship. Children are therefore expected to be silent upon entering the hall. Music will often be played whilst children are entering or leaving the hall to provide an atmosphere for individual reflection.
- 5.4 Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School is led by teachers, children, the Vicar of St George's Church, other local clergy and, on occasions, other members of the local and wider community.
- 5.5 Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School begins with the symbolic lighting of a candle and the saying 'We light this candle...' to which everyone replies, 'because Jesus is the light of the world'.
- 5.6 A worship table provides a focus point for each whole school Collective Worship, the cloth on the worship table changing colour to mirror the Church of England church year.

6. PRAYER IN WORSHIP

- 6.1 Prayer and opportunities to reflect and be still are an important element of Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School.
- 6.2 At the end of each Collective Worship, following a short prayer and reflection led by the worship leader, the school prayer is said by all. (See Appendix 1) On occasions, the Grace is also said.
- 6.3 Learning about the important and famous prayers of Christianity, (e.g. Lord's Prayer) and other appropriate traditional responses, collects, hymns, and psalms are included when appropriate, including prayers from Common Worship (the Church's Prayer Book).

6.4 Children's own prayers are encouraged and used within Collective Worship.

7. KEY ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

7.1 Worship at Brailes C of E primary School follows the essential principles which apply to any act of worship of **welcoming, learning, reflecting and responding**. We use the Roots and Fruits approach to structure Collective Worship in school.

Welcoming

It should be made clear that joining together for thought and/or prayer is special and significant within the school day.

Learning

Thought should be given to how to stimulate interest in the content. After the lighting of the school candle, the following may be used by the worship leader: show a picture or video clip, lead a poem, play some music or ask the children to take part in story reading and/or drama.

It is important for pupils to see that they, as well as members of staff and visitors, can take on a variety of roles in collective worship such as leadership, contribution and participation.

Reflecting

Worship demands a level of involvement, but involvement in worship is ultimately the decision of each individual. There should be time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought so that those attending can respond in a variety of ways.

Responding

The worship should be summarised with a brief but meaningful message to create the opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas or continue to reflect on their thoughts within class based follow up reflection activities, in the school community and beyond.

7.2 The act of Collective Worship will be evaluated on a regular basis so that pupils' views can be obtained and we can ensure that it is continuing to reflect good practice.

8. CHILDREN LEADING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

8.1 Opportunities for children to lead worship are provided throughout the school year. There are many opportunities for pupil worship leaders to plan, lead and evaluate worship. Drama, pupil's own song and hymn lyrics, worship instrumental music, poetry and prayers are important elements of worship inside school worship in classrooms, wild worship which takes place in the school grounds and services at St. George's Church.

9. REFLECTION AREAS

9.1 Reflection areas within each classroom and prayer spaces provide opportunity for all members of the school community to reflect and expand learning from whole school Collective Worship themes.

10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

10.1 Children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. It is important that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

10.2 Children are always invited to worship, never coerce, remembering that children will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level.

11. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

11.1 A long term plan is in place for Collective Worship which reflects the Christian calendar, promotes the core Christian values at Brailes C of E Primary School and also takes into account any relevant events happening within the local community, nation or world.

11.2 To reflect the multi-faith element of British society and the importance of fostering tolerance, respect and understanding, opportunities will be made to link Christian beliefs with those of other religions.

11.3 Celebration worship on Fridays reflects the efforts and achievements of the children. It offers opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements in and out of school. Celebration and class sharing worship play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

12. PLANNING AND RECORD KEEPING

12.1 All teachers taking acts of worship are expected to plan Collective Worship activities and reflection which focus on the half termly values and events. A record of Collective Worship coverage is kept in the school Collective Worship record folder. This folder provides a running record of all acts of worship and contributes to the on-going evaluation of Collective Worship at Brailes.

13. RESOURCES

13.1 There are a variety of school resources and websites available for use in Collective Worship. Imaginor Roots and Fruits and The Church of England 'Values for Life' folder is an important documents which supports the planning and delivery of Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School.

13.2 Stories will often form the stimulus for discussion and response in Collective Worship. In addition, worship is enhanced when possible by artefacts, pieces of art, music, or children's work.

14. VISITING SPEAKERS

- 14.1 We would like all children over a period of time to have the opportunity to listen to speakers and/or undertake visits to support their learning of RE. The Associate Headteacher will be proactive in identifying educational visits or visitors, in liaison with school staff.
- 14.2 As far as possible, we would like all of our pupils to be present for acts of worship so that they may form an objective opinion of what constitutes a religious view of life. Children should never be made to feel guilty or inadequate that their way of life differs from that of the speaker.
- 14.3 Children must never be forced to make a response, to sing a religious song, or to pray.
- 14.4 Children will be more comfortable with prayer if they are invited to join in, but given the option to think quietly and respectfully whilst others pray.
- 14.5 All input from visitors must first be agreed with the Associate Headteacher or Executive Headteacher.

15. MONITORING

- 15.1 Monitoring of Collective Worship will be carried out jointly by the Associate Headteacher and the Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship. The following strategies will be used for collecting evidence:
- Written observations; checking that practice matches planning.
 - Observing children's attentiveness and level of interest.
 - Conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback.
 - Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors.
 - Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school.
 - Holding regular discussions with colleagues and children.
 - Gathering written comments from colleagues and children on the worship in planning book.
- 15.2 Feedback will be brought to staff meetings which will review collective worship which will be held through the school year in line with the school's monitoring policy.

16. EVALUATION

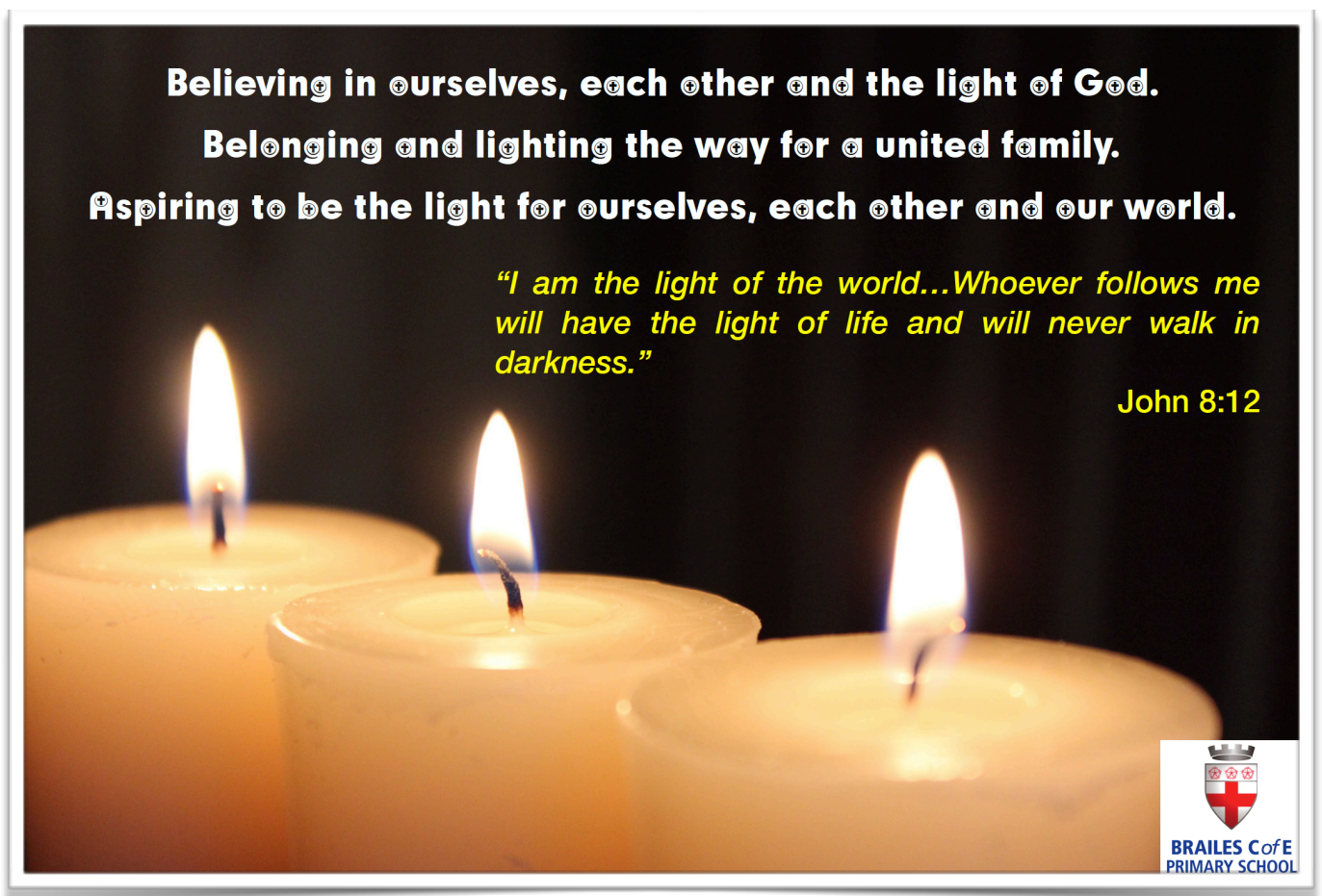
- 16.1 In our monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship we look for the subsequent criteria as evidence of a successful and meaningful act of worship:
- A variety of strategies are used regularly in order to engage the children's interest.
 - A reflective and peaceful mood that matches the theme.

- There is opportunity for silence and stillness within the worship.
- Positive response to the shared experience.
- Children are comfortable.
- Children participate enthusiastically with confidence and have the opportunity to plan and lead worship.
- The development of trust, respect, forgiveness, courage and peace within the school community.
- Enrichment of children's experience.

17. REVIEWING THIS POLICY

17.1 The Collective Worship policy and practice will be reviewed annually by the Associate Headteacher and Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship to ensure that interest and quality are maintained for pupils and teachers and to take account of any new national or local policies.

Policy reviewed: September 2018



Brailes C of E Primary School

Children's Prayer

Two eyes to look to God

Two Ears to hear His words

Two lips to sing His praise

Two feet to walk in His ways

Two hands to do His will

One heart to love Him still

O Lord Jesus let me be, loving, gentle, true to
thee.

Amen