BRAILES C*of* E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy



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1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

Collective Worship is the **"beating heart of our school"**. It is a highly valued part of our school day, offering a special time for our whole school family to come together.

More than just a daily requirement, it is the main platform for exploring and embedding our school's theologically rooted Christian vision: **Grow together, shine bright – "Let your light shine"** (Matthew 5:14–16). The rhythm of daily worship provides a space to step away from the busyness of the day to encounter faith, explore bigger questions of meaning and purpose, and reflect on what is important to us as individuals and as a community.

As part of **The Stour Federation**, our vision supports our commitment to providing a future-focused education where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to live ***"life in all its fullness"*** (John 10:10). Our vision inspires everything we do and finds its deep biblical grounding in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount through six theological pillars:

- **Recognition of God-given Uniqueness (Imago Dei):** The belief that every child and adult is a source of spiritual light, possessing unique God-given gifts and talents that must be nurtured. Everyone is made in God's image and is uniquely valuable and full of potential.
- **Visibility and Community Impact (A City on a Hill):** Just as a city set on a hill cannot be hidden, Brailes aims to be a beacon that shines its light far and wide, creating a positive, hopeful force that illuminates families, the community, and the wider world.
- **Purposeful Action and Service (Good Works):** Learning is an adventure where "good works" are expressed through positive Christian character and service to others. Our actions are the vehicle through which we share the light of Jesus.
- **Overcoming Barriers to Flourishing (Not under a Basket):** By shining our lights collectively, we banish darkness, negativity, and fixed mindsets, ensuring everyone can overcome fear and doubt to reach their very best selves.
- **Ultimate Purpose (Glorify your Father):** Shining is not for self-glory but for witness and service. The ultimate goal of our good works is to point people toward God and lead them to glorify Him.
- **Spiritual Flourishing (Creation):** God's plan is for all creation to flourish. Worship provides the ideal environment for every child to grow like a healthy plant, reaching toward the light.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As a Church of England school, Brailes has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. The law requires a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class. For Church of England schools, this worship must be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The Local Academy Council has a responsibility for ensuring our collective worship enables all pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, in line with the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework, notably **IQ3** which asks: *'How is collective worship*

enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?' They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the Headteacher.

3. SCHOOL STATEMENT ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Brailes, Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and is a primary expression of our vision. It supports the school's distinctive vision **Grow Together, Shine Bright - "Let your light shine"** and with our three Christian Values of **Compassion, Courage and Curiosity** invites every member of our community—children and adults—to discover their unique, God-given gifts, build a strong and supportive community, and use their talents to make a positive impact on the world.

Our Three Christian Missions

Our mission is the practical outworking of our vision, focused on helping children and adults discover their God-given purpose:

- **Mission 1 - Believe:** To believe in ourselves, each other and be proud of our own and others' achievements. By believing in the talents of 'Team Brailes,' we ensure that no light is hidden under a basket but is placed on a lampstand.
- **Mission 2 - Belong:** To belong, be understood, valued and confident and proud of who we are. Rooted in Imago Dei, we extend "unreasonable hospitality" to ensure every child and adult feels a deep sense of belonging and safety.
- **Mission 3 - Aspire:** To aspire to be our best: outward facing, determined and able to achieve more than we think is possible. As a "city set on a hill," we empower children and adults to become courageous advocates for justice and agents for change.

Growing in God's Love & Narrative Concepts

We grow in God's love by embracing the Christian narrative through five key concepts:

- **Trinity (Embracing Diversity):** Characterised by diversity and perfect relationship, ensuring our school is a tapestry of interconnected flourishing.
- **Incarnation (Walking Alongside):** Getting alongside peers in times of need during the 'ows and wows' of life, offering support and hospitality.
- **Salvation (Transformation and Hope):** Bringing those on the margins into the centre of our community through active inclusion and equity.
- **Reconciliation (Forgiveness and Repair):** As an International Cross of Nails school, choosing restorative practices, forgiveness, and repair to maintain harmony.
- **Love (The Foundation of All):** Handling difficult conversations with kindness and truth, ensuring everyone knows they are valuable to God.

Principles of Collective Worship

Our worship is truly welcoming, inclusive, and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality. Following Church of England guidance, Collective Worship at Brailes adopts the metaphor of **'warm fires and open doors'** and is always:

- **Inclusive:** Worship involves everyone in meeting, exploring, and questioning. It is fully accessible to all, regardless of faith background. Language used avoids assuming faith in all participants. Pupils are meaningfully involved in planning, leading, and evaluation.
- **Invitational:** We provide the opportunity for all to engage with integrity. The Christian message is authentic and clear (the warm fire), and the door is open for all to join. We invite children and staff to pray if they wish, but always provide the opportunity for quiet, personal reflection.
- **Inspiring:** Designed to be formational and transformational. It enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do, motivating them into action and courageous advocacy for justice and positive change.

4. AIMS

Collective Worship at Brailes C of E Primary School aims to:

- Repeatedly explore the school's vision, Grow Together, Shine Bright - "Let your light shine", and how it underpins our shared values and mission.
- Support all pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.
- Offer an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Provide an invitational experience of worship, allowing all present to observe or respond to the presence of God as understood by Christians.
- Help pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Help children become familiar with Christian language, symbolism, Anglican liturgical traditions, and the cycle of the Church year.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and reflecting, using multi-sensory approaches.
- Enable pupils and staff to develop skills in planning, leading, and evaluating worship.
- Learn about and from other religions, worldviews and cultures, including scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal, and wider achievements of pupils and adults.
- Develop their understanding of core British values.

5. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Leadership

Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher, teachers and other members of staff, and pupils. We also welcome members of the clergy from our local church to support and lead worship regularly. All visitors are briefed on our school context and vision to ensure worship is appropriate and effective.

Planning & Four-Stage Worship

Worship is planned to reflect the cycle of the liturgical year and specific special days, explore our Christian values, and make explicit links between Bible stories and our vision. Our planning follows a four-stage structure which maps directly to the Brailes School Prayer:

Worship Stage	Relational Direction	Focus & Practice
1. Welcoming	**GATHERING**	Gathering as a community, lighting three candles to symbolise the Trinity, and introducing the worship theme.
2. Learning (Windows)	**OUTWARD DISCOVERY**	Opening up new perspectives on the world, encouraging pupils to experience its "WOWS" (awe and wonder) and its "OWS" (challenges), and NOWS (ordinary things).
3. Reflecting (Mirrors)	**INWARD REFLECTION**	Providing time for inward reflection, allowing everyone to consider how the theme resonates with or challenges them personally.
4. Responding (Doors)	**ACTION & SERVICE**	Encouraging a creative and active response, considering how we can "step out" and make a difference in our community and the world.

Acts of Worship at Brailes Include:

- Stories and biblical readings
- Songs, hymns, and contemporary worship music
- Dance and drama presentations
- Prayer, led reflection, and guided meditations
- Creative silence and quiet contemplation
- Sacred and secular literature readings
- Artefacts, visual media, and natural materials
- Children’s active contributions and pupil-led presentations

6. WEEKLY PATTERN OF WORSHIP

Day	Worship Focus & Theme	Leadership & Delivery
Monday	**Our World & Our Place in It**	Led by staff & pupil leaders: iSingPop, Picture News, current affairs, and core British Values.
Tuesday	**Worship Through Song**	Led by teachers: joyful singing of traditional and contemporary songs connected to worship themes.
Wednesday	**Vision and Values (STRIVE)**	Led by teachers & pupils: exploring core values (Courage, Compassion, Curiosity) & house Reading Buddies.
Thursday	**Vision and Values (Roots & Fruits)**	Led by staff or visiting clergy: exploring values through the Roots and Fruits Anglican curriculum resource.
Friday	**Celebration & Achievement - SHINE**	Led by the Headteacher and pupils to celebrate children demonstrating our vision and values.

7. PRAYER LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL & THE BRAILES SCHOOL PRAYER BLUEPRINT

The **Brailes School Prayer** serves as the explicit, systemic, and theological blueprint lived out in collective worship as the **"beating heart of our school"**. Each line of the prayer maps directly to our vision, missions, core values, and spiritual framework across four relational directions:

THE BRAILES SCHOOL PRAYER

God be in my head, as I wonder, ask and grow.
God be in my eyes, putting others first as I go.
God be in my mouth, with words kind, brave and true,
God be in my heart, showing compassion in all I do.
God be at my end, to try new things, look outward and achieve,
To grow together, shine bright, and believe.

Amen.

Theologically Rooted Vision Reflections in our School Prayer

1. "God be in my head, as I wonder, ask and grow."

Core Value: Curiosity | School Mission: Aspire | Worship Movement: Windows (Learning)

Theological Depth: *Creation & Flourishing through Outward Discovery*

True learning begins when we are brave enough to ask "why?" and "how?". This line celebrates curiosity as a God-given gift. When we invite God into our thoughts, we open our minds to wonder at the world around us (Windows). In doing so, we live out our mission to Aspire—challenging ourselves to look outward, ask deep questions, and grow beyond our current limits, discovering that we are capable of achieving more than we ever thought possible like a plant growing toward the light.

2. "God be in my eyes, putting others first as I go." & "God be in my heart, showing compassion in all I do."

Core Value: Compassion | School Missions: Belong & Believe | Worship Movement: Mirrors (Reflecting)

Theological Depth: *Imago Dei, Trinity, Incarnation & Salvation / Good Works*

To put others first, we must first learn to truly see them. Having God in our eyes means looking at our peers, teachers, and community with compassion (Mirrors). A compassionate heart is the engine of a loving school. When Compassion is in our hearts, it shines through in every action—big or small. It reminds us of our mission to ensure everyone feels they Belong, recognizing the sacred worth of every individual made in God's image (Imago Dei) so no child's light is hidden under a basket.

3. "God be in my mouth, with words kind, brave and true." & "God be at my end, to try new things, look outward and achieve."

Core Values: Courage & Compassion | School Missions: Belong, Believe & Aspire | Worship Movement: Doors (Responding)

Theological Depth: *Love, Reconciliation, "Not Under a Basket" & "A City on a Hill"*

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. Speaking words that are kind requires compassion; speaking brave and true words requires immense courage. 'Our end' represents our

goals, future, and boundaries. Asking God to be at our end gives us courage to step out of comfort zones (Doors), try new things, and embrace mistakes. This embodies Reconciliation (forgiveness and repair as an International Cross of Nails school) and empowers pupils and adults as courageous advocates and agents for change.

4. "To grow together, shine bright, and believe."

All Core Values | School Missions: Believe & Aspire | Worship Movement: Beyond (Community Connection)

Theological Depth: *Trinity, Matthew 5:14–16 & "A City on a Hill"*

We do not journey alone; we grow together. Underpinned by Matthew 5:14–16 ("Let your light shine"), we are called to let our light shine so that the world can see our good works and glorify God. When we believe in ourselves and each other, our individual lights combine to create something brilliant. Together, we shine bright as a proud, confident, and inspiring school community—a visible beacon set on a hill.

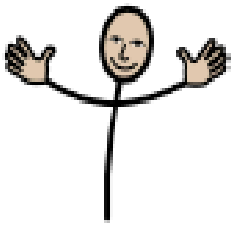
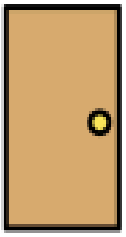
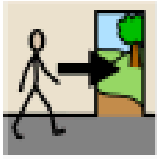
8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The impact of Collective Worship is monitored regularly by the Headteacher, senior leaders, and governors. This process involves observing worship sessions, listening to pupil and staff voice, and reviewing class reflection journals to ensure our worship is effective in enabling all pupils and adults to flourish spiritually.

9. THE RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We believe Collective Worship is a central and inclusive part of our school life, and we hope that all parents will want their children to attend. However, we recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

A parent wishing to exercise this right should meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and the practical implications. Alternative provision will be made for withdrawn pupils, consistent with the school's educational aims and at no additional cost to the school. The Headteacher keeps a formal record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

 Wecoming	 Lighting candles
 Windows	 Wows, Ows, Nows
 Mirrors	 Reflecting on what this means to me
 Doors	 Responding and making a difference