

# Beetham CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



Caring for Everyone, Learning Together,  
Achievement for All

This policy is based on the Christian principles,  
values and beliefs that underpin everything we do at  
Beetham Church of England Primary School.

## September 2020

Approved by <sup>1</sup>	
Name:	John Lomax
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	
Date:	2/9/2020
Proposed review date <sup>2</sup> :	31/08/2022

# Collective Worship Policy

## **Introduction**

Sharing in Collective Worship is an important part of life at our school and takes place daily in accordance with legal requirements.

Collective Worship is distinct from RE and the content is broadly Christian and reflects Christian beliefs, usually including explicitly Christian material or Christian worship practices

## **Aims**

**Our central aims of Collective Worship are to:**

- provide worship which is inclusive, invitational and inspirational
- provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of our school and Christian community including the sharing of achievements and talents of all our pupils
- help children to understand and respect a variety of forms of Christian worship so that they may gain insight into what it is like to live a religious life
- help children understand the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- affirm the uniqueness and contribution of every individual in the sight of God
- provide opportunities to explore the 'Big Questions' of life and the response that have been made to these by people of faith
- reflect on current events of significance

## **Legal Framework**

Since 1944 collective worship has been a legal requirement in maintained schools. The law requires that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In a church school these acts must be distinctively Christian in nature. By inviting the school community to worship, we need to consider the varied backgrounds that the school community come from and therefore collective worship is invitational rather than confessional in nature.

At this school collective worship is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and is consistent with the beliefs of the Church of England.

## **Implementation**

***(During COVID-19 restrictions Collective Worship is being held in separate classes and Celebration Assembly is not open to visitors)***

Our pupils take part in a daily act of worship as a whole school. Worship lasts approximately 15 minutes and is led by different teaching staff, visitors and children.

As Collective Worship takes place in a classroom a sense of occasion and an atmosphere of calm are created through children leaving the classroom and re-entering with a Worship time partner. We use a special Worship table with a visual focus which is set up in advance and music is played as the children enter.

Collective worship includes a period of reflection, which may take the form of a poem or moment of silence and an act of worship when the children experience and take part in different types of prayer.

Whenever appropriate, opportunities are made to link the main theme of the day to a specific reference in the Bible.

Singing is also a daily part of worship and enables all the children to be involved in this joyful method of praise.

Children work in groups to prepare acts of Worship with the guidance of a member of staff. In addition, they regularly take part in daily worship through greetings, prayers, activities, volunteering and evaluation. Celebration Assembly takes place on a Friday morning and is an opportunity for pupils to share their learning and celebrate the achievements of others. Parents, friends and members of the PCC regularly attend this weekly act of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship in Beetham CE School is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.

The school visits the local church for worship, particularly at major festivals in the Christian calendar Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost

### **Content**

We have developed a range of themes and topics which follow a two-year cycle. Each half term varies but always contains worship focussing on a Christian value, God's Big Story of the Bible, learning and sharing of songs/hymns and Christian festivals. This makes up the programme for Collective Worship from Monday to Thursday and the week concludes with Celebration Assembly.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The whole school is given the opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship. The leaders of the sessions keep a record of the content and approach in a 'Collective Worship' diary and both children and adults are regularly asked to give feedback and comments which are added to the diary. There is also a Celebration Book in the entrance that anyone attending worship can contribute to. These evaluations are used to inform future planning and provide a basis for the development of our Collective Worship provision. The Governor for Collective Worship carries out a full review as part of a three year cycle and provides a report for the governing body.

### **Withdrawal**

The school respects the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish, but it is hoped that our worship is of a kind which includes everyone. Anyone wishing to withdraw their children from Collective Worship must do so in writing to the headteacher