



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

JULY 2023

Signed:
Headteacher: Liam Reynolds

Signed:
On behalf of the Governing Body

Proposed Review Date: July 2024

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Our Christian Vision is:

Following in the footsteps of our founder John Cross, we are committed to providing a loving, Christian family school built on mutual love, respect and co-operation. A safe and stimulating learning environment will enable our pupils to believe and achieve now and in the future.

Our strap line is, '**Believe and Achieve**'.

Our Christian Narrative

Our Bible verse is '**Life in all its fullness**' **John 10:10**

'Life in all its fullness' fully permeates every aspect of life at John Cross. John Cross was the benefactor of our school, whose generosity and compassion for children was rooted in his strong Christian faith which led to him donating the funds to build the first school in order to 'educate the children of Bilsborrow in the principles of the Christian religion.' (John Cross's will 1718). By walking in the footsteps of John Cross, we follow his Biblical values which shape the social, moral, cultural and spiritual aspects of school life. For 300 years since the school was founded, staff have nurtured a symbiotic relationship with the community, ensuring God's love is evident through thoughts and actions, embedding Christian values which have provided the basis for individuals to shape their personal beliefs and respect for others. Today, we continue to follow the loving example of Jesus Christ in order to enable all our pupils to flourish socially, academically and spiritually.

Our caring and loving school environment is inclusive of children of all faiths and backgrounds and is where each child is loved, celebrated, and welcomed. We hold high aspirations for our pupils, whom we seek to become well-rounded, confident, honest, resilient, compassionate, ambitious, responsible and thoughtful people, who consistently demonstrate sound moral character, fulfil their God-given potential, and have a strong sense of community and their place within it. All of this ensures that each child has solid foundations for their futures.

Our strong community links enable good working partnerships with parents, the local church and wider community, where working together enriches the opportunities and experiences that our children receive. Within the school community, children learn to collaboratively integrate, respect, and believe in the intrinsic and developing value of each other, to value themselves and the contributions they can make in immediate, wider, and global relationship, and learn how God can inspirationally help them to fulfil their potential.

In order to enable our younger members to engage in the theological rooting of our vision, we have chosen to further explain this by including the story of The Feeding of the Five Thousand, which was proposed by Henry in Year 4. Firstly, the story demonstrates the strength of a community of people of different ages working together to support each other spiritually, physically and emotionally. As in this story, Jesus sets the example for us to follow by the compassionate way he ensured that others needs were met before his own by accepting a child's offer of help and as a consequence the community of gathered people were able to receive both physical and spiritual nourishment. As Jesus did, we too believe in empowering our children to be the game changers, to stand out from the crowd, to take the first courageous steps, as the child in the story did, in order to show generosity and compassion by doing or giving what they can so that God can fulfil his plans for our school, community, nation or world and others as well as ourselves can Believe and Achieve and live 'life in all its fullness.'

The Aims of our School are:

To help everyone realise their full potential

To promote spiritual, moral and social growth

To understand the fast changing, diverse world in which we live

To encourage intellectual and physical development

To learn about and live our Christian Faith

To promote mutual respect and responsibility

To BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

And to wholeheartedly play our part, whether that part is to learn, to lead, to teach or to support others.

This policy is intended to reflect that statement and build upon it. Children need to grow up within a stable framework of beliefs and values. As an aided school we are able to contribute to this through our act of collective worship.

AUDIENCE

This policy is intended for all staff, governors, parents and other interested parties. Copies are distributed to all staff and governors and a copy is placed on the school website and on the office computer. Copies are distributed to others on request.

AIMS

1. To develop, through daily worship, the children's knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith by reflecting its beliefs, practices and values.
2. To enrich the children's lives by building upon, or introducing them to, a relationship with God giving them a greater understanding of Him and themselves.

3. To enrich the children's experiences of prayer, worship and hymns.

4. To provide a time for thought and reflection and to promote spiritual well-being.

5. To promote a sense of awe and wonder about God, His Creation and ourselves as a part of His world.

WORSHIP

Worship at John Cross is a special time for all children and staff to share our school Christian values and reflect on how we can live our lives to support one another and grow together.

Worship themes are planned for the year and follow a Gospel theme each half term. The themes are explored further in class through RE lessons, Art, Music and Drama. Children's work, thoughts and reflections are displayed in class, the school hall and corridor displays. They are an essential part of our learning environment. Throughout the year samples of work are added to our whole school floor book. Additional themes include special days in the Christian calendar and special events also add to collective worship.

The Headteacher, worship coordinator, worship leaders and vicar meet to decide on collective worship ideas and when worship will take place in church.

The completed pattern for worship will be distributed to all staff, the vicar and a copy placed on the school website. A complete record of the themes for collective worship are kept in the Headteachers' room in line with the recommendations of the diocesan advisory service.

Example of worship themes over a two year rolling program are:

Year 1

Autumn 1: Compassion

Autumn 2: Compassion

Spring 1: Trust

Spring 2: Trust

Summer 1: Perseverance

Summer 2: Perseverance

Year 2

Autumn 1: Friendship

Autumn 2: Friendship

Spring 1: Forgiveness

Spring 2: Forgiveness

Summer 1: Hope

Summer 2: Hope

ORGANISATION

It is a legal requirement that an act of collective worship takes place daily. Daily worship takes place at John Cross and is organised as to be appropriate for all pupils and staff. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child but the governing body will not make any arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn - this is clearly stated in the school prospectus. All staff are required in an aided school to attend daily acts of collective worship.

It should be noted that approximately once per half-term, worship will take place in St. Hilda's church and will be led by a member of the clergy team or one of the classes. The date and timing will be detailed in our termly planning. Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to church worship. End of term church worships include awards presentations.

In addition each class will (i) say a grace before lunch (chosen by class teacher or child) and a prayer to close the school day.

Each week the pattern of worship follows the following timetable:

Monday: Whole school led by the Head Teacher

Tuesday: Class worship/ Key stage worship

Wednesday: Rev Gary Whittaker/vicar leads worship

Thursday: Whole school worship led by a teacher or hymn practice

Friday: Celebration assembly at 2.45am to which Parents, carers and friends are warmly invited.

Once every term one class will invite parents and family members to a whole school worship led by the children.

Worship begins with music, the lighting of a candle or the introduction of a special focus such as a vase of flowers, an image, a cross, a natural object or significant artefact. The children are invited to join quietly in this special time to think and reflect on Christian messages and values. There is time to listen, observe, participate, reflect, be still and sing. Everyone in worship is invited to join in singing hymns which are accompanied by a CD or clip. Children are invited to join in with the prayers if they would like to. Worship concludes with the candle being extinguished and the children departing back to class whilst music is played.

- Interpretation
- Reflection
- Empathy
- Application
- Expression
- Self-understanding

The on-going activities from worship are designed to promote positive attitudes such as **curiosity** and to explore religious ideas through reflection, empathy and imagination. In addition they encourage **respect**, to recognise the needs and concerns of others and to develop a balanced sense of self-worth and value.

Worship is linked to God's Big Story which is displayed in each classroom This provides a framework to ensure that the Bible stories taught are linked together effectively in order to develop a solid understanding of the key concepts of the Christian faith.

PRAYERS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Whilst those leading collective worship will choose appropriate prayers to use for that day, specific prayers have been identified for regular use. These are included at appendix 1.

SCHOOL WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship leaders will be appointed in classes 1, 2 and 3. Their role is to:

- 1) To discuss, suggest (and manage) the class worship area.
- 2) To participate in teacher led class worship when required by the teacher.
- 3) To plan and organise whole class worships with the help of the worship coordinator.
- 4) To meet with the vicar to discuss worship topics for the next term as well as other whole school activities.

RESOURCING

Resources for collective worship can be found in the cupboard in the corridor and in the Headteacher's office. In addition, the R.E. resources also contain materials that are suitable for use in acts of collective worship.

ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

Collective worship is coordinated by the RE coordinator in consultation with the Vicar and the governing body. It will be the responsibility of the co-ordinator to (i) regularly review and, if necessary, update the policy. (ii) consult with the Vicar regarding themes for collective worship

ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER

It is the role of the head teacher to (i) keep the governing body informed (ii) make provision for appropriate training that may be required by new staff or governors (iii) make use of support and advice given by the Diocesan Board of Education and the advisory team based at Blackburn (iv) ensure there are adequate and appropriate resources for collective worship.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Collective worship is made accessible to all pupils in the school regardless of gender, race religion or social background. It is intended that the format and themes used will provide for all.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

All pupils will be able to contribute to Collective Worship and will be encouraged to do so. Because of the nature of our Collective Worship those pupils identified as having special needs should be able to contribute as well as non-SEN pupils and worship should be accessible to all children.

MONITORING, EVALUATING

Whilst the co-ordinator has the specific responsibility to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship, all staff will be involved as part of the school monitoring policy. In addition the Vicar and governors need to reflect upon the provision made and offer advice and suggestions for improvement.

APPENDIX 1

Traditional version of the Lords Prayer

The Grace

Lord, bless our school, that working together and playing together we may learn to serve you and to serve one another.
Amen.

The Lord be with you. RESPONSE: And also with you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. RESPONSE: And also with you.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. RESPONSE: In the name of Christ, Amen.

At the end of the day we stop and say, thank you Lord for our work and play, we've tried to be good for we know that we should, that's our prayer at the end of the day.