

# **Bryn Offa CE Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of Bryn Offa and plays a central part in the life of our school. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
  - Christian festivals;
  - school values;
  - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage.

### **Our worship has 3 underlying principles:**

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature

### 3. Collective worship is educational

#### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural**

Our acts of collective worship aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words;
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

#### **Inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus we welcome children and staff of all faiths.

Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

#### **Educational**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values ;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

## **The Pattern of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place daily in the school hall. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself. Collective worship will follow a format including the lighting of the candle at the altar and the Lord's Prayer. The school prayer is recited both within class and whole school worship.

## **Leading worship**

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community including Reverend Trimby who is also a school governor. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year, often led by the school's Creation Club. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to incorporate our monthly school value and ensure a balance between content and experience. Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as drama, alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

## **A legal note**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

Date Adopted – February 2019