



## BISHOP WINNINGTON-INGRAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

*A community that gives each child an outstanding spiritual, academic and practical education and instils an awareness of the overflowing joy, love and peace that comes from God's love for us, so that they are able to achieve their potential and truly experience 'life in all its fulness.' John 10:10*

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date policy accepted by the Governing Body:	Spring 2024
Date for review:	Spring 2027

#### Our Vision

'My Cup Overflows' Psalm 23:5

We are believers that when you feel the overflowing joy, love and peace that comes from God's love, that that love flows out into others and the environment around you. Collective Worship offers the perfect environment for children to feel God flowing into them and gives them the skills, knowledge and vocabulary to share God's peace with their family and local community. Through worship our mind set becomes clear, focused and you are able to make decisions that benefit everyone around you. We believe that when your 'cup' is full and overflowing with love that it is a continuous cycle. That love will overflow out of the cup and run through the trees, flowers and rivers back up into the sky again, to be poured down by God to reach someone new.

This is how BWI takes pride in its worship, by catching God's joy, love and peace. When our cup is overflowing, it will pour out into the local community, connecting us all together to give each child an outstanding spiritual, academic and practical education.

#### Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of our Collective Worship are:

- To celebrate our Christian faith through daily acts of collective worship;
- For the children and staff to experience a peaceful, reflective time together and space from the hectic school day;
- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and to gain deeper understanding of the beliefs of

- others;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach children how to worship.

## **Collective Worship**

At Bishop Winnington Ingram Church of England School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participate. We expect everyone to take an active part in the Collective Worship. Governors are welcome to join all acts of Collective Worship.

We base our Collective Worship on the teachings of the Bible and the traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. When appropriate we hold collective worships that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in school and in the wider community.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

At Bishop Winnington Ingram Church of England School we hold daily active worship. This may be as a whole school, or in Key Stages, year groups or as individual classes. Acts of Collective Worship are held as indicated in the table (**Appendix 1**).

Collective Worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of peaceful reflection which we regard as a special time when children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Staff are expected to prepare the children for a time of worship through promotion of a calm, composed atmosphere in the classroom or the hall before they participate in worship. They should be quiet and thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings, and participate fully in prayers and hymns/songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music at the beginning of Collective Worship as the children are arriving. We then involve children in several ways following their feedback to our collective worship assessment. The first role is our candle server. This child chooses a candle from our central prayer table in our 'hub'. They bring this to the worship and wait at the front. They are then joined by our RE ambassador for the year group. The server presents the candle to the RE ambassador who lights it and says our shared opening words. At the end of the worship, both the server and the RE ambassador come to the front again. The candle is blown out and our closing shared words are said by all. The candle server then returns the candle to the prayer table in the 'hub'. This emphasizes the sacredness of the candle for all of our children. A third role is that of the reflector. This child is chosen, again from that week's year group, and they will write a short reflection about the worship in whatever form they wish – prayer, recount, drawing. This allows a variety of different children to be involved in our worship over the year.

**(For guidelines for leading Collective Worship see Appendix 2).**

As well as staff conducting collective worship the clergy of St Martins Parish Church regularly lead our whole school assemblies. Clergy of local churches are also invited to lead worship on a weekly basis. Children are given the opportunity to participate in acts of worship themselves.

There are weekly themes for acts of worship which are built around the Schools Vision and values. These reflect the Christian faith and lifestyles as well as reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. There is a rota for each term which shows the weekly themes and who will be leading the acts of worship each day. Our values are celebrated through our Mentions Books and Stars of the Week.

Key Stage acts of worship reflect the achievements of our children. Each week class teachers select two

children from their class to receive praise for specific achievements. These achievements are recorded in our Mentions Book and read out during the Key Stage worship. The child also gets sent home a special 'Because of You our cup overflows' postcard from the Headteacher which is posted home as a surprise for them. Children are also encouraged to bring certificates, cups, shields etc. awarded in out of school activities to share their achievements with their peer group. This plays an important role in promoting the ethos of BWI, which is that all children's cups overflow and that their successes can inspire others to achieve. The birthdays of all children are celebrated at these Collective Worship times.

Twice each term Key Stage 2 children celebrate Mass. These services are led by the clergy of St Martin's Church and a number of Key Stage 2 children, including the RE Ambassadors, are involved through the writing/reading of prayers, serving, or reading the lesson. Parents, Governors and parishioners of St Martin's Church are encouraged to join these services to promote the home/school/church links.

On the penultimate day of each school term a service is held at St Martin's Church for children in Year Reception to Year 6. Members of the school community are encouraged to contribute in a variety of ways e.g. writing and reading prayers, playing instruments, and reading appropriate passages from the Bible or other suitable texts, drama sketches etc.

### **Class Prayer Area**

Each class has a Prayer Area. We encourage children to use the prayer area as somewhere to reflect on the vision and values of the school. Questions are used to evoke discussion and thought and are updated weekly. Our Value Hearts are above this area to help inspire children in their prayer. Prayer boxes are placed in this area for any child to place their prayers in which are then collected to be used in our half-termly prayer meetings with the community. Staff are encouraged to keep prayer tables attractive and tidy and emphasis on quality and appropriateness of the artefacts and pictures. Quality rather than quantity is emphasized as often the simplest picture or artifact can convey a powerful message. **(See Appendix 3)**

### **Resources**

There are a wide variety of resources available to help with planning acts of worship. In addition, the following websites have material suitable for use: [www.assemblies.org](http://www.assemblies.org) and [www.barnabasinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk).

### **Right of withdrawal**

All staff and children are expected to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent may request permission for their child to be excused from attending daily worship and alternative arrangements will be made for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This follows the 1988 Education Act and is restated in the 1996 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the responsibility of the named school governor for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Each week a different class is invited to discuss their views on Collective Worship, which is recorded and fed back to Governors each year. Where appropriate, practical suggestions from the children are put into place to improve and develop this aspect of school life.

Collective Worship Policy - APPENDIX 1

Weekly organisation of Collective Worship

<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>ORGANISED BY</b>
Monday	1.00pm	Whole School worship	Hall	Mrs Rodenas and Clergy
Tuesday	1.00pm	Key Stage 1 Worship	Hall	Staff/Children
Wednesday	1.00pm	Whole School	Hall	Father Robert
Thursday	1.00pm	Key Stage 2 Worship	Hall	Staff/Children
Friday	1.00pm	Whole School sung worship	Hall	Mr Owen

**Guidelines for leading Collective Worship**

- ✚ The content of Collective Worship should be planned to emphasise the weekly theme and its link with Christianity and the Christian value or if in class, it should be supporting the value of the week, or looking at the 'Bigger Picture' through current events or issues relative to the local community, supporting SMSC
- ✚ Children should be involved wherever possible, either directly in some form of activity, through their responses to ideas presented during worship or by reading prayers.
- ✚ A sense of reverence is vital to all acts of worship. Children should enter and leave the hall quietly.
- ✚ All whole school acts of Collective Worship should include the Lord's Prayer and begin with our candle lighting "We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and then with 'Peace be with you' the response being 'and also with you'.
- ✚ A candle should be lit at the beginning of collective worship and remain alight throughout, to remind everyone that Jesus is the Light of our World, and to focus the children's attention. This is chosen and presented to the RE ambassador to light and say the words above. This candle is then blown out with the closing words "Even though this candle is out, we still remember that God is always with us. Help us to shine with our cup overflowing'
- ✚ A prayer and time for silent reflection should end the main part of Collective Worship.
- ✚ An appropriate hymn or song should be sung at some point during Collective Worship.

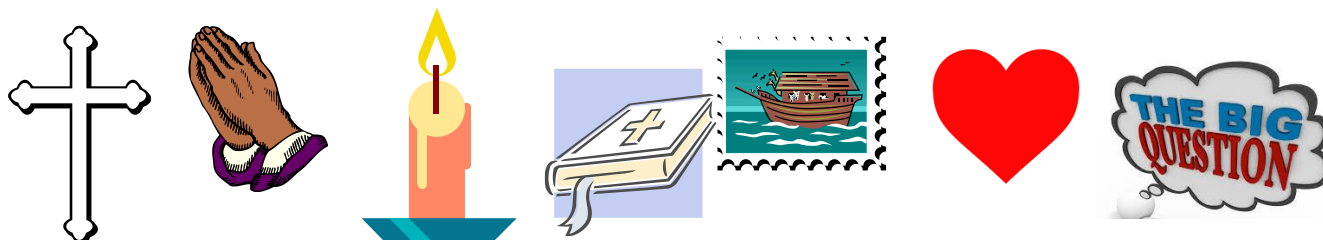
## What is a Prayer Corner?

A Prayer corner is an area in your classroom where children, adults and visitors can spend time reflecting and know that God is present.

### What would you find in a prayer corner?

Each classroom has an allocated area, which could be a table or a suitable surface including the surrounding wall space, which is exclusively for the prayer corner display. The surface is covered with the special cloth reflecting the church season colour, (This cloth will be provided for you).

Every prayer corner will have the following items:



Cross	Prayers	Candle	Bible	Bible Story	Values Heart	Reflection Question
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### The Power of prayer

There is a prayer box in the foyer where anyone can add prayer requests. The prayers are then passed to St. Martins, who will pray for all. This is completed weekly and collected by a member of the St. Martin's clergy. Children have the opportunity to make prayer requests at the class prayer corner. Having a prayer board and/or prayer display, a prayer box or on the Values Heart are available for all children to contribute to and/or pray for others' requests.

### What about the class prayer and grace?

In Years 2-6, the prayer book on the table will be made up of the children's own prayers. Year 1 and EYFS can display the class prayer and grace on the wall above the prayer corner. Upper school classes should also have their children's graces on display or in a booklet on the prayer table.

### What about the class cross?

You may wish to display your class cross in this area although it may be more appropriate to have this in another area of your classroom.

*Please don't forget that this prayer table is a place of reflection and worship and we would ask you to encourage the children to respect this area and keep it special.*