



"Barnabas, the Encourager"

St Barnabas Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

At St Barnabas all children are valued as individuals made in the image of God. We educate and develop the whole child in order to be the best that they can be. We promote a spirit of belonging and encourage children to be aware of the needs, feelings and rights of others, and so make a positive contribution to society.

Christian values are central to the ethos of our school, especially those of: community, friendship, forgiveness, truth, courage, thankfulness.

Rationale

This Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims, ethos and values and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school.

At St Barnabas CE Primary School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at St Barnabas CE Primary School is planned to:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It aims to engage all learners who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and which will explore and relate to the school's core Christian values;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;
- have a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his position central to the Christian faith;
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness;
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to";
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Inclusion

St Barnabas CE Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we are always sensitive to the very wide range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes:

- those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- members of other faith communities
- those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Aims

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St Barnabas CE Primary include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness and pressures of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience and learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;
- valuing self;
- valuing the views and opinions of others;
- promoting fundamental British values.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. The School meets this requirement and this is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. In such circumstances, parents are encouraged to discuss their reasons for withdrawal with the Headteacher, although they are not required to do so.

Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We mark out this special time by lighting three candles (to represent the Trinity), entering and exiting calmly and quietly, having time for stillness and reflection, saying 'welcome words' and responses together, singing and listening to music.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'.

A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

We use the resources 'Values for Life' (Jumping Fish) and 'Roots and Fruits' (Imaginer) to support the planning of Collective Worship.

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 can volunteer to be a member of the Worship Committee who remain in place for half of the school year. Members take it in turns to carry out routine tasks such as setting up the Worship Table, welcoming and dismissing, organising the music and operating the computer/projector. In addition, they regularly plan and prepare the delivery of the content of Collective Worship with the Worship Leader (e.g reading the story, acting out, preparing role plays);
- Each class takes a turn in planning and leading Key Stage Collective Worship. Pupils are encouraged to suggest the theme and message of the act of worship and consider how they will deliver this message to other pupils;
- Each class may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship held in St Barnabas Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and deliver the act of worship in church that is their Leavers' Service;
- In most acts of collective worship, individual pupils are invited to lead prayers, which pupils of all ages are keen to do;
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an ad hoc basis to act out or role play situations/stories.

The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

- formal observations of Acts of Collective Worship led by a range of leaders;
- pupil discussion groups with the Headteacher or Governor;
- informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice;
- pupils' responses and ideas during Collective Worship
- written evidence in response to prompts in the whole school reflection corner which links with the Collective Worship theme.

Mrs Anne Williamson, one of the school's foundation governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the Teaching and Learning committee at the school.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by The Headteacher, Miss Boardman.

Our Pattern of Collective Worship

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events. The content of acts of worship linked to the latter would be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

Whole school Collective Worship is held on 4 days of the week, with key stage or class based worship (alternate weeks) held on the 5th day. Whole school worship is usually led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher or a regular visitor.

Regular visitors leading Collective Worship are:

- The Priest-In-Charge of St Barnabas Church – once per fortnight (in the interim period between the retirement of the previous Priest-In-Charge and the appointment of a new one,

members of St Barnabas Church Leadership Team are leading Collective Worship in school on a regular basis).

- YOYO (York Youth Trust) – at least once per term
- Lifezone from The Rock Church – a block of several weeks in a year

Visitors are supported to understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Whole School Celebration: Act of worship

Once a week on a Friday, the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Parents, carers and families are invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Summary of St Barnabas CE Primary School Pattern of Worship Organisation

Day / time	Who	Led by
Monday 9am	Whole school (not FS)	Miss Boardman
Tuesday 9am	Whole school	Miss Boardman / Visitor
Wednesday 9am	Whole School	Miss Connolly
Thursday 9am	Key Stage 1 or Class	YR & KS1 teachers
Thursday 9:55am	Key Stage 2 or Class	KS2 teachers
Friday 8:55am	Whole school & parents	Miss Boardman

Policy agreed by Governors (Teaching and Learning Committee) on 9th March 2017