



Collective Worship

Approved by:	Standards Committee	Date: 09/07/2025
Last reviewed:	June 2025	
Next review due:	June 2026	

Bishop Bronescombe Church of England School

Last Updated 07/25

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Our school vision is 'We share the gifts and talents that we have, and with God's help, it can become something amazing!'



‘Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At Bishop Bronescombe, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Bishop Bronescombe, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to

participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Church of England Guidance

Collective worship policy at Bishop Bronescombe draws on guidance from the Church of England³. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant; worship in Bishop Bronescombe should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

³ <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>

At Bishop Bronescombe there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Bishop Bronescombe aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth

- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

Here is the weekly timetable for our collective worships:

- *Monday – Head’s collective worship*
- *Tuesday – Singing collective worship*
- *Wednesday – Visitor collective worship (members of Holy Trinity, Flourish, Open the book)/ Collective worship team collective worship*
- *Thursday – ‘CAW’ time/‘Agents of change’ class collective worship*
- *Friday – Achievers collective worship*

Leadership

- Beth Horwell (Assistant Headteacher) is in charge of Collective worship at our school.
- Beth Horwell supports visitors by providing the structure of our collective worships; ‘Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending’ (using the Windows, Mirrors and Doors) and works with the minister at Holy Trinity create the structure of our communion services.

Planning

- Our yearly calendar is planned around the church’s year to ensure that we celebrate and mark certain seasons in the church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. We also take into consideration the calendar events throughout the year i.e. Black history month, Neurodiversity celebration week, anti-bullying week. Beth Horwell creates the termly schedules for our collective worships and plans the Head’s collective worship, ‘CAW’ time and ‘Agents of change’ collective worships.
- The collective worship team are supported to plan, prepare and deliver collective worships with the support of our collective worship lead.
- We ensure that our 6 Christian values (Compassion, forgiveness, courage, respect, perseverance and trust) are taught explicitly through our collective worships. This may be by using a bible story (i.e. David showed courage when he fought against Goliath) or by using an example of someone famous (i.e Thomas Edison inventing the lightbulb demonstrates perseverance). Children are also celebrated for demonstrating our Christian values during Achievers collective worship on a Friday.
- As per the ‘Collective worship guidance’ (written by the CofE education office), we ensure that our collective worships have a recognisable format. Each collective worship follows the structure of Gathering, Engaging, Responding, Sending.
- To ensure that our collective worships are inspirational, we use a range and variety of materials, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips and focal points e.g. a picture or candle

- We ensure that we keep up-to-date with current affairs and link these in with our collective worships when this is appropriate.
- The Trinitarian nature of God is recognised at the start of every collective worship and we light the candle. The person leading the collective worship says “We light this candle...” and the pupils respond “In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.”
- The spiritual growth of staff and pupils is nurtured through prayer, stillness and reflection during our times of collective worship.

Organisation

- All of our collective worships are whole school collective worships apart from ‘CAW’ time and Agents of change collective worships, which are class collective worships.
- Our collective worships generally take place in the hall, however, we have been known to make use of the playground and the school pitch to have collective worships too.
- The atmosphere for worship is created by using music as the children enter the hall; we have a collective worship table at the front of the hall which displays the liturgical colour of the season of the Church Year. We also have our collective worship candle on this table to act as a focal point for when we ‘gather’.
- Our daily acts of collective worship take place at 1.15pm each day, and last around 20 minutes.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The governing body – monitor the impact of collective worship and ensure that it is effective in developing children’s spiritual growth.
- The headteacher and the senior leadership team – ensure that collective worships are pivotal in the life of the school and are inclusive, invitational and inspirational and that they support children in their spiritual growth.
- Clergy and church partners – to work closely with the school to provide collective worships that are distinctively Christian and support children in their spiritual growth
- Teaching and support staff – to uphold the Christian ethos of the school during times of collective worship
- Pupils – to actively participate in collective worships, and to play a role in planning, delivering and monitoring them.
- Parents and carers – to support the Christian nature of collective worships.
- Visitors - to work closely with the school to provide collective worships that are distinctively Christian and support children in their spiritual growth.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This includes accessing training offered through the Diocese and through the Flourishing Schools Programme. Our Assistant Headteacher (Beth Horwell) leads the school's collective worship, and supports other schools within Rainbow MAT as part of the Flourishing Schools Programme.

Monitoring and evaluation

- We have an identified member of the governing body who focuses specifically on monitoring Christian distinctiveness; collective worship is part of this.
- Our Christian distinctiveness governor uses the SIAMs monitoring frame for IQ3 (collective worship) along with pupil conferencing, observing collective worships and meeting with Beth Horwell (our collective worship lead).
- The pupils on the collective worship team help to monitor and evaluate the impact of collective worship.
- Questionnaires are sent to classes to allow pupils to demonstrate the impact of collective worships and to have a voice in collective worships for the future.
- The impact of collective worship was considered a strength within our last SIAMs inspection: *'Collective worship is central to the school day and a joyous experience. It is inspirational and enables pupils and adults to grow spiritually. Singing is a particular strength.'*

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan website⁴)

Date of last review:

Headteacher signed: S. Gynn

Date: 29.9.25

Chair of Governors signed: P. Hermes

Date: 29.9.25

⁴ <https://exeter.anglican.org/schools/christian-ethos-siams/collective-worship/>