



**ODST**  
Oxford Diocesan  
Schools Trust

# Bampton CE Primary School and Nursery

*Learning together with Respect, Friendship and Perseverance*



## ***School Vision Statement***

*We endeavour to enable individuals in our school community to learn together, grow in respect, tolerance and understanding of the world in which we live, embrace Christian values and reach our full potential.*

<b>Title of Policy</b>	<b>Collective Worship Policy</b>
<b>Date Adopted by the Governing Body</b>	<b>April 2018</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>April 2021</b>
<b>Signed by the Chair of Governors</b>	

## **Introduction**

ODST schools are inclusive, creative communities that build understanding, respect and empathy in young people. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths (or none) are welcome. Our schools are faith communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. In regular acts of formal worship, the school community has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

## **Legal Requirements**

*"Worship will be - appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils, - provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders." (DFES)*

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the religious character of our Academy as part of the ODST Corporation of Schools.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are:

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**

Acts of collective worship will 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.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship at Bampton CE Primary School**

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

Collective Worship is planned by the senior leadership team to include a focus on the Values for Life programme, our school core values, key festivals and celebrations. Collective Worship can be led by staff, children and visitors, including regular visits from the vicar linked to St. Mary's Church of England in Bampton.

Collective Worship can be organised in different ways including whole school, classroom based or key stage based, indoors or outdoors, in school or in an alternative venue (e.g. Services in the local church)

Collective Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.

Class prayers are said in classrooms before going to lunch and reflection and prayer are used at other times during the school days as and when appropriate. The Lord's Prayer and the School prayer are used regularly as part of Collective Worship.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

Acts of worship often include and ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions
- use of class based reflection areas

### **School Prayer**

#### ***The school prayer is usually sung***

Help us to do the things we should  
To be to others kind and good  
In all we do at work and play  
To grow more loving everyday

(repeat)

Amen, Amen

### **Evaluation and Review**

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. These evaluations feed into our school self –evaluation document. Every five years the school undergoes a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and a report is written identifying the school's strengths, and areas for development, as a church school. The provision for Collective Worship and the impact it has is considered as part of this inspection.

### **Rights of withdrawal**

The right of withdrawal was established in the Education Act 1944, re-enacted in the Education Reform Act 1988.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents are asked to discuss the matter with the Principal in the first instance.

If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship then the Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. The Academy remains responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from collective worship, unless the student is lawfully taking part in collective worship elsewhere.