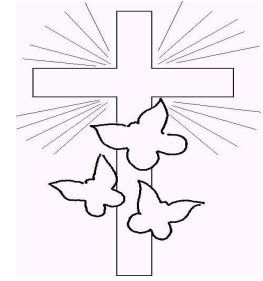


# St Bartholomews C.E. Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

(Revised Summer 2005)

### Purpose

The purpose of Collective Worship in St Bartholomew's School is

- to affirm our identity as a Church of England Aided School.
- to celebrate the major Christian festivals.
- to offer opportunities for children to develop the spiritual dimension of their lives.
- to teach the value of silence, reflection and to introduce children to the practice of prayer.
- to celebrate our community life.
- to explore social, moral and ethical issues.
- to acknowledge and celebrate diversity in race and culture.

### Underlying Principles

Acts of collective worship

- will be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.
- will seek to be inclusive, encouraging a sense of unity and identity.
- whilst remaining true to our Christian identity, will also seek to be sensitive to those children whose traditions lie within other faiths or whose families have no overt faith commitment.
- Will, on specific occasions be held in the Parish Church when appropriate.

### Participation

Worship is an important feature of the life of the school and this is made clear to parents who seek a place for their child/ren. We seek to include all staff and children as far as possible in terms of attendance at, participation in and leadership of school worship.

Our aim is that all pupils in attendance shall on each school day attend an act of collective worship.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child/ren from acts of collective worship, discussion takes place with the class teacher and headteacher in order to make suitable alternative arrangements.

Parents are generally invited to attend Friday morning assemblies and any special assemblies held at other times.

### Gatherings for Collective Worship

Collective worship may take place as whole school, key stage, phase, or class gatherings. Prayers are said in each classroom at lunchtimes and at the end of each school day.

## **Content**

Themes and content for whole school collective worship are generally planned on a termly basis. These reflect the seasons of the year, Christian festivals or other issues deemed pertinent to the school community.

Phase teams and class teachers each plan their own respective acts of collective worship. These may follow whole school themes, reinforce topics being taught in religious education or have particular relevance at that point in time.

Christmas and Easter have a dominant influence on collective worship at their respective times of year. The season of Advent is marked as a preparation for the Christmas season whilst Christingle services have traditionally been held in the parish church nearer to Christmas.

At Easter it has been the school's practice to hold whole school acts of collective worship each day during the last week of the Spring term as a symbolic 'Holy Week'. This gives the whole school community to the opportunity to reflect on the death and resurrection of Christ.

## **Format**

A variety of ingredients are used to create a rich and varied experience. Across the school year many of the following may be utilised: Bible readings, drama, poetry, images, stories, music, dance, visual aids, visual focus eg lighting a candle.

## **Music**

We consider music to be a vital part of collective worship. As such it should be appropriate to the themes being covered, be engaging and reflect the rich tradition of Christian experience, historical, contemporary and world-wide.

## **Liturgy**

The Church of England is a liturgical church and so as a school we seek to make use of the strengths of liturgical worship where appropriate in our assemblies. This might include the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the use of responsorial prayers as well as other well-known prayers from the past.

## **The Eucharist**

The school aims to celebrate the Eucharist at the end of each term as a culmination to the community life of the school. The autumn term Eucharist has a Christmas theme, whilst the in the spring and summer the themes are Easter and 'moving on' respectively.

Participation by the whole school community is encouraged with invitations being offered to parents and governors. Children read, lead prayers or take part in drama or dance.

A *prayer collection* is often also used as a means by which individuals can participate in an act of petition or intercession.

At the end of the service blessed bread is offered to all who have participated as a means of ensuring inclusion.

## **Leadership**

Whole school assemblies are led by the headteacher, or a member of the school's leadership team, the parish priest or a visiting speaker. Each class also leads whole school assemblies once in the school year.

Phase/ Key Stage assemblies are led by the relevant staff on a rota basis.

Class assemblies are led by the class teacher.