St Barnabas C of E Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Responsibility	Christian Distinctiveness Lead
Approved by	St Barnabas LAB

*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines

"Shine like stars in the universe."
Philipians 2: 14-15



Our values inspired by
the life of St Barnabas

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

At St Barnabas C of E Primary Academy we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self- esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

Our policy for collective worship supports this by:

- Recognising that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:
    - worship God
    - reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
    - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
    - consider spiritual and moral issues
    - respond to the worship offered
    - respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
    - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
    - begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
    - ensuring the daily act of collective worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar

- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:
    - be inspiring and transformational
    - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
    - develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and focus on our school Christian values
    - include a range of creative opportunities e.g music, silence, symbol, drama
    - heavily involves pupils through members of the Worship group opening and closing worship and through pupils writing their own prayer
    - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
    - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
    - will take place in the school hall, outdoors, in class rooms or the church
    - respecting the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship

Content of Daily worship

As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a half termly, 2 year cycle to cover our 6 Christian Values
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Biblical teaching
- Use the school prayer, Lord's prayer and other prayers written by pupils and led by the worship group
- Follow an order of service
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

Special Services and Visitors

We value our links with the staff and congregation of the Church of the Resurrection and St Barnabas. We hold our Harvest, Christmas and Leavers' services in church. The vicar regularly leads worship and always attend our services in the church. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective worship.

Inclusion and withdrawal

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the principal. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school

Our Vision and Values

Here at St Barnabas we encourage pupils to understand and promote our school Christian values. We promote Christian values through the celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and through prayer and reflection. Through reflection and prayer we also work to take each child on their own faith journey.

Preparing our children to shine brightly.

-love, service, courage, forgiveness, compassion, generosity –

'Shine like stars in the universe.' Philipians 2: 14-15

Our Vision: Preparing our children to shine brightly.

St Barnabas is a caring, family school with Christian values at our core. We want our staff, families and children to encourage, inspire, believe and achieve whilst living out our Christian values inspired by St Barnabas – love, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, service and courage.

Our Mission is: to develop all children to achieve personally and academically so that they can think for themselves and articulate their views, in a reasonable way, with the emotional resilience necessary to thrive in the ever changing wider world.