



BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S
SCHOOL

Brigstock Latham's Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Forward thinking and creative, valuing faith, tradition, community and achievement.

OUR VISION:

We aim to be a nurturing, creative school at the heart of our community, where all are enabled to achieve their best. We celebrate our differences, we value each individual and we encourage kindness and respect from all.

Our Christian values underpin all our learning, and the depth and breadth of our curriculum enriches our children and enables them to embrace 'Life in all its Fullness'. (John 10:10)

At Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion where the purpose is to show relevance to God. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. We base our collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Church. However, we aim to conduct collective worship in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of school.

Collective worship contributes significantly to our ethos and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

Aims for Collective Worship

At Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School the aims and purposes of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children and school community to worship God
- To enable the children and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children and adults to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

At Brigstock Latham's Church of England Primary School collective worship is central to our school life as we offer the distinctive contribution of a VC Church School. We provide opportunities for children and staff to worship in a range of ways, consistent with traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

Practicalities of Organisation

We hold a daily act of *Collective Worship* in our school, which forms part of each assembly. The format is agreed annually, and details are included in Appendix 1. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way, and we aim for it to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We tell children that worship time is a time for thinking and calm reflection, and we regard it as a special time for all. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite children to participate in prayer and songs, and we create an atmosphere by using music, a cross and a candle to act as focal points for the attention of the children.

All members of the Senior Leadership Team are involved in leading *Collective Worship* and we have regular involvement from the vicar of St Andrew's Church and from a number of visitors. This brings greater variety to our worship and strengthens our links with the local church. We also use the Church for *Collective Worship* and invite our Church and Village communities as well as our School community. Parents are invited to class *Collective Worship* and to other special services- including Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and Leavers. This helps us to promote the community spirit of the school. We also welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunch-times and within classes, and all children are involved in writing and sharing poems and prayers that are personal to them.

Content

A plan of themes is produced annually and is included in Appendix 2. This plan reflects the values that we have chosen as a school, and includes Respect, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Love, Compassion, Hope, Truth, Justice, Trust, Humility, Honesty and Generosity. We also consider all the key events, festivals and special times in the Christian calendar, and respond to National and Worldwide events. A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording details of themes, values, music and prayer. We also actively encourage the children to plan and lead worship, and to contribute to the school themes and values as well as to current events. Once a week we hold *Collective Worship* that specifically shares the achievements of the children, offering an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, celebrating and valuing individual achievement and recognising that achievements span a range of areas. We confirm the importance of this in our weekly newsletter which confirms the value we place on enabling our children to experience and embrace 'Life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10).

Resources

We use a range of children's bibles and prayer books, including 'The Lion Storyteller Bible'. Resource books are kept centrally, and relevant powerpoint presentations and song words are kept electronically on the school server and are available for all staff to use.

Useful websites include:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabisinschools.org.uk

www.imaginer.co.uk

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Foundation Governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out, and worship is regularly evaluated with the CW coordinator. Governors liaise with the Head Teacher before reporting to governors on Collective Worship.

Right of Withdrawal

As a VC school, we expect all children to attend assembly, and we discuss this with parents at the time of admission. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Head Teacher keeps a record of any children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

APPENDIX 1-Details of the content of our daily worship

APPENDIX 2- Current worship plan, with details of themes and values to be explored.

APPENDIX 1- DETAILS OF THE FORMAT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP WITHIN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR

MONDAY	To start the week, Collective Worship will be at the beginning of the day at 9.10am, after registration. This will ensure the maximum impact, allowing children to have time to reflect on and be inspired by the worship. It will link to the theme for the week, and will offer children the chance to reflect and respond in a range of ways- through their own actions, through written responses and reflections and through preparation for a shared child-led response on Thursday morning.	SE, JG
TUESDAY	Collective Worship will be Values- led, and our school values will be shared; through the week, teachers write onto our creatures when they see positive examples of our learning values being shown. The comments are read out to the school to acknowledge the contribution of these children, in a time of reflection. Prayer will involve call and response, and will also offer the opportunity for extemporary prayer. House points will be shared at this assembly.	HQ
WEDNESDAY	Alternately whole school singing,(with the focus on learning songs linked to key events in the Christian Calendar), and Worship linked to Well-being and Wider Events. This assembly will also make active use of the prayer tree and the children’s prayer books. There will be time for reflection at the end, with personal call and response.	JG, CK, JK
THURSDAY	Child-led Worship, with contributions invited from groups of children in response to Collective Worship themes, values and events. Once a month this CW will be led by the School Council	SE, CK, JK
FRIDAY	This is our celebration assembly, and we share the children’s achievements in a range of ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children are invited to share awards and achievements from home, by bringing in certificates, trophies etc and sharing them with the school. • Certificates are awarded for completed ‘Learning Credit Cards’, thus rewarding ongoing achievement, effort and hard work in the classroom. • One child in each class is awarded ‘Pupil of the Week’, with the focus on the learning behaviour and values that have been displayed that week. These children receive a special certificate, read out by their class teacher and presented to them by the head teacher. Prayers are shared from the children’s prayer books in a time of reflection and thanks. In this assembly, teachers also lead the children in a special prayer. We look back and say thank you for things that have happened during the week, and we look forward to events in the future.	ALL STAFF: SE- Pupil of the Week. JG- Sport achievements, Home Achievements AO- Birthdays JB- Prayer