

Policy Statement for

Collective Worship



Policies to refer to and cross reference: Religious Education Policy, Spirituality Policy, Behaviour Policy, PSHE & RSE Policy

Change History Review every 3 years	Summary of Key Changes	Author
January 2026	Policy published	Executive Headteacher

Rationale

Collective worship is central to the life and purpose of Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, distinctiveness, vision and values.

As a Church of England School, we have a vision which is biblically rooted and theologically underpinned. This vision is lived out through a set of Christian values. We have chosen four of these as 'core' values - Love, Respect, Community and Trust. The vision and underlying values inform our school's policies, procedures, design making, including the design of our curriculum.

At Bisley Blue Coat, collective worship provides a space and a place for the celebration of the Christian foundation, vision and values of the school, in an inspirational way.

Legal Framework

Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School recognises there is a legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Executive Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Leaders and governors have a responsibility for ensuring that our school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Schedule. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship has on the school community in consultation with the Executive Headteacher.

Aims

Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world.

All pupils at our school are important, and we celebrate diversity of experience, interest and achievement as a **community with respect and love.**

Collective worship at Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School aims to:

- provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.

Owner:	Executive Headteacher	Delegated To	Executive Headteacher
Review Frequency	Every 3 years	Updated	Jan 26
		Date ratified by Governing body	N/A
Version	1	Next Review	Jan 29
Review Author	Sarah Broadbent	Published on Website	Yes

- 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.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

Worship Structure

Day	Group	Time	Led by	Content
Monday	Whole School	1:10pm	Vicar/ Open the Book	Vicar or Open the Book
Tuesday	Whole school	1:10pm	Class Teacher (rota based)	Values Programme (Value of the Half-Term)
Wednesday	Whole School	1:10pm	Class Teacher (rota based)	Praise (Singing)
Thursday	Whole School	1:10pm	Class Teacher (rota based)	Core Value (Love, Respect, Perseverance, Trust)
Friday	Whole School	2:45pm	Senior Leadership Team	Celebration Worship: Certificates, value nominations and badges.

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Open the Book Team

A team of volunteers from the local church bring to their worship, a series of stories from old and new testaments using the Lion Storyteller Bible – retold by Bob Hartman. They follow a specific programme organised through the diocese and encourage pupils to reflect on the stories and join in with prayers at the end if they would like to.

Planning

Our whole school collective worship is planned around ‘**The Values for Life**’ programme written by Shahne Vickery, Catherine Coster and Verity Holloway (Primary Schools’ advisers to the dioceses of Gloucester, Bristol and Salisbury). It is a resource to support the teaching of Christian values in Primary Schools and supports Bisley Blue Coat with its two-year Value cycle. Each year, six of the twelve values are visited half termly. It invites all members of the school community, including children, to plan and lead acts of worship effectively.

In addition, local and national events, major Christian festivals and multi-faith festivals are incorporated into the worship where appropriate. These are planned across the Year in advance and are often followed-up during a core value worship, linking with: love, respect, community and trust. We also draw on online resources such as **Imaginor**.

Content

The ‘**Values for Life**’ programme gives a basis upon which to plan each half term’s theme. We follow the pattern of, Welcome, Learning, Reflective and Responding in our worship, using the ideas of Windows, Mirrors and Doors to symbolise the elements.

Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of our school. We also use traditional folk tales, modern stories, drama scripts, film clips and artwork to ensure that Collective Worship is **Inspirational, Invitational and Inclusive** to everyone. We sing a song or hymn and there is time for quiet reflection on the theme of the collective worship as well as a prayer. We ensure that the Collective Worship is Inclusive and Invitational by inviting pupils to pray.

Our worship reflects the Anglican heritage through:

- the use of the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- the making of explicit links between Bible stories and the Christian values of our school
- reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- observing the cycle of the Church’s year: Advent, Christmas, Candlemas, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost
- the pattern of worship – welcome, learning, reflecting, responding
- the use of specific prayers including the Lord’s Prayer, responses (The Lord be with you – And also with you. This is the day the Lord has made – Let us rejoice and be glad in it), hymns and worship songs
- the use of prayer - formal, pupils’ own, silence/reflection and extempore

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- the provision of opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship
- sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths, shown in our inclusive ethos, the welcome we offer to all pupils and in the celebration of shared values and beliefs

Special Events

Through the year, we celebrate special events, including those within the Christian Calendar. We celebrate Harvest, Advent and Easter at Church where a Year Group plans and leads the celebration. All parents are invited to the Church.

Our Year 6 leavers attend the Diocesan Leavers' Service in Gloucester Cathedral and have their own 'Goodbye Assembly' at the end of the summer term.

Events such as Book Week, Armistice Day, Anti-Bullying Week and International Week are also marked.

Involving Parents

Parents are invited to attend the Church Worships, their child's Class Assembly and Celebration Worship on a Friday if their child is receiving an award.

Spiritual Development

Opportunities for Spiritual Development are fostered across the whole curriculum. However, acts of collective worship provide particular opportunities for promoting the spiritual development of pupils. These include:

- the recognition that there is something more to life than the ordinary
- acknowledging the capacity of pupils to reach beyond the everyday experiences of life
- the development of the inner life of each pupil
- a search for meaning
- a sense of values
- a sense of the transcendent
- searching for answers to some of life's ultimate questions

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Worship is monitored by RE and Collective Worship Lead, the Senior Management Team and Governors.
- Other formal monitoring or evaluations are made by the local Vicar and the Bishop's Visitor.

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- Children have an opportunity to share their own reflections and evaluations in their *Collective Worship Journal* found in their class reflection areas.

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