



Collective Worship Policy

Last review: January 2020

Next Review: January 2022

Reviewed by: Head/Ethos Group

Adopted by: Head

West Berry Federation Worship Policy

Schools' Vision: Being the best we can be; committed to make a difference.

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school as a time coming together. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues. At Berrynarbor Worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school. Collective Worship is centered around the school values and Christian calendar. Worship in school is known as 'collective' worship as opposed to 'corporate' worship. In collective worship the community gathers (or collects) and worship takes place there is no expectation or compulsion placed on participants. What is provided is an 'opportunity' during which the participants, through a variety of experiences can:

- Worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
 - Christian festivals;
 - school values;
 - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values. Explore current world events within the context of our school ethos and Christian values.
- develop as a community based on our Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship – lead by our Pupil Worship Leaders;
- feel safe and affirmed.

At times worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- consider moral issues in a Christian context and to;
- Enhance social understanding;
- explore beliefs drawn from a variety of cultural heritages.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

The general weekly pattern of collective worship will include:

- Introduction of a bible story
- Follow up learning from the week's bible story
- Picture News (current world affairs explored through a Christian and British Values lens)

- Singing assembly (opportunity to learn new praise songs – uplifting or reflective - and have a time of reflection or thanksgiving)
- Celebration Assembly – a time to reflect on the week’s learning, celebrate success and acknowledge the children’s application of the school values, collecting and sharing prayers and questions)

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Through RE and collective worship we seek to raise the children’s awareness, understanding and respect for other faiths.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in Worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our schools children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to Jesus and God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Christian church. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Children’s ‘Prayers to Share’ and questions are collected weekly and used to inform future planning. A record of this is kept in the Worship Scrapbook.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school’s Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with one of our headteachers.

Guidance on Collect Worship

Our collect worship planner included school and world events, Christian festivals and a half termly focus on one of our values. This value based focus extends into other areas of the curriculum (see Life curriculum).

Collective worship must happen every day but can be in class or in key stage/whole school groupings.

Setting the atmosphere of Collect Worship is important – it should feel different to a lesson. Use music, a time of stillness, a candle or other meditative activity to help the children to prepare.

Assembly	What must be included	Might be included	Pupil Voice	At Berrynarbor...
Bible story/word of God	<p>Story or words from Bible (sometimes other religious or secular texts can be used)</p> <p>Reflection or Prayer</p> <p>Question to think about/something to notice/something to find out about.</p>	<p>Drama</p> <p>Video clips</p>	<p>Opportunity to ask questions and share prayers (in box)</p>	<p>Lord's Prayer</p>
Follow up to Bible story/word of God	<p>Discussion about how the story applies to our lives.</p> <p>Reflection or prayer</p> <p>Question to think about/something to notice/something to find out about</p>	<p>Debate</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Follow up story</p> <p>Visual demonstration</p>	<p>Opportunity to ask questions and share prayers (in box)</p>	<p>School prayer</p>
Picture News	<p>Image and questions</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>What can we learn?</p> <p>Prayer or reflection</p>	<p>Discussion /debate</p> <p>Song</p> <p>Meditation</p>	<p>Opportunity to ask questions and share prayers (in box)</p>	<p>School prayer</p>

Singing	Learning or practising new songs Discussion/explanation of the words and what this means Prayer or reflection	Link to music curriculum with children performing		School prayer
Celebration	Green/Purple cards reviewed – values focus Prayers to share box opened and shared Questions collected throughout the week reviewed.			Star of the week and citizen of the week School or Lord's Prayer

Berrynarbor will keep a collective worship scrapbook containing and Prayers to Share and Questions from each week along with any reviews. This scrapbook will be used to evaluate worship before planning the next cycle.

Children should be reminded of the behaviour that is expected during collective worship.

- ✓ Sit quite still
- ✓ Don't bother other people
- ✓ Look at the person talking
- ✓ Think about what the person is talking about