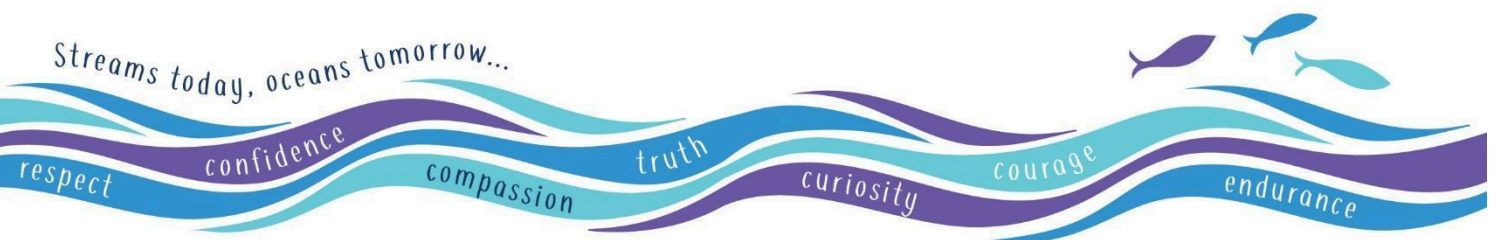


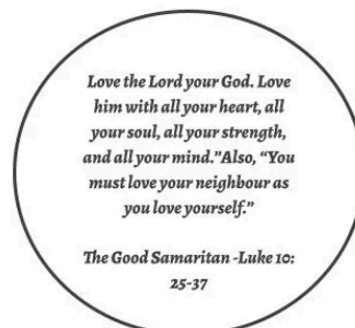
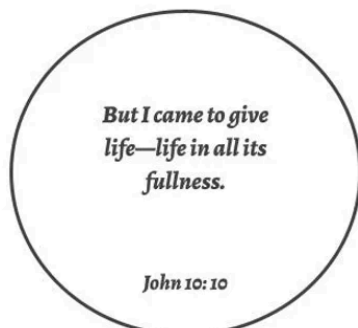


Collective Worship Policy

Last review: Sept 2024
Next Review: Sept 2025
Reviewed by: Head/ Ethos & Vision Group
Adopted by: Head



Being the best we can be; committed to make a difference.



Introduction

Berrynarbor VC Primary is a Church School and West Down Primary is a community school. We consider ourselves to be part of the one family of schools with a shared vision and shared staff team. Our Federation vision prioritises nurturing children in the 'stream' to develop their confidence and compassion for others. This is in preparation for them to go out into the 'ocean' where they are prepared to make a difference. We consistently encourage the children to always be the 'best they can be'. At Berrynarbor School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to come together and celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop and understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly (Berrynarbor VC Primary) or mainly (West Down Primary) of a broadly christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of christian belief."

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include our school values of confidence, curiosity, truth, compassion, respect, courage, endurance and love. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld.

We aim for collective worship to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and based upon Christian teaching and values. It aims to give opportunities for all present to grow spiritually, whatever their personal philosophy, or whether or not they come from a faith background.

Through collective worship children will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. This will include being invited to participate in prayer, reading and reflection from the Bible. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Children will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in Christian values such as love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian and world faiths calendar. All present will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

Context of Collective worship

Setting the atmosphere of Collect Worship is important – it should feel different to a lesson. A time of stillness, with a candle and sometimes music may be used to help the children to prepare.

At Berrynarbor VC Primary School a gathering liturgy is used at the start of collect worship

‘We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit’

Collective Worship happens daily and in order to promote children’s learning, our acts of worship vary. Within the week the children experience:

Singing Assembly	<i>Offer a chance to raise our voices in praise; they're a conduit for spiritual upliftment and introspection, where new praise songs uplift our spirits or reflective melodies provide solace and gratitude.</i>
Picture News	<i>Where we navigate current world affairs through the lens of our Christian and British Values, enriching our understanding of global issues and our role within them.</i>
Themed Assemblies	<i>Themes are chosen based on the Christian calendar and our core values.</i>
Church Assembly	<i>We dive into the rich narratives of timeless Bible stories, extracting pearls of wisdom and inspiration to illuminate our paths forward.</i>
Celebration Assembly	<i>We come together to honour the triumphs of the week, celebrating academic success, embodying our school values, and sharing prayers and questions that unite us as a community.</i>

In every aspect of our worship, whether in the rhythms of the Church year or the weekly gatherings, we strive to embody the essence of our core values, fostering a deep sense of connection, growth, and purpose.

Collect worship follows a familiar pattern

Gathering - Marked by quiet or music and a candle. Berrynarbor VC Primary pupils say the gathering liturgy together.

Engaging - When children learn something new

Responding - When children have the chance to digest and respond to what they have learnt

Sending out - A clear ending with invitation to take learning into life

Prayer holds a central place in our worship, serving as a vital connection to God and Jesus. While prayer is introduced with gentle invitation, pupils are never pressured to participate. Those who choose not to pray are encouraged to reflect on the messages shared during worship. Additionally, we use prayers created by the children throughout the day eg. prayers of thanks before meal times.

Beyond our school gates

Families are invited to extend their exploration of faith by attending weekly services at our local Parish Churches. St Peter's church in Berrynarbor welcomes the children and families of Berrynarbor VC Primary once a week for shared worship led by Reverends Mark and Tandy on a Thursday morning. Before worship, members of the community offer parents a calm space and moment of quiet during their busy week and a chance to gather with other parents with a cup of tea or coffee.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

