

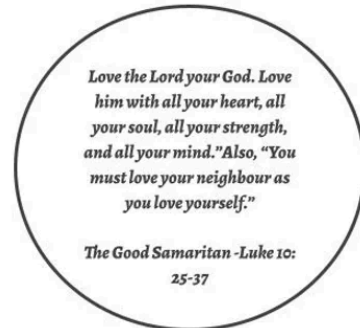


Collective Worship Policy

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 is a Church School. 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 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 or mainly of a broadly christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of christian belief." At Deep Valley we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include love, joy, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life. 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. Collective Worship is an inclusive activity. 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, music, a candle or other meditative activities may be used to help the children to prepare. 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.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children’s learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and dvds all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

Beyond our school gates, families are invited to extend their exploration of faith by attending weekly services at our local Parish Church. Under the guidance of Reverend Mark and Tandy Ruoff, they delve deeper into the Christian principles of faith and prayer. These sessions provide a sacred space for students to worship God, ponder spiritual and moral dilemmas, and reflect on their personal beliefs.

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 to show thanks for food before meal times.

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.

