



Faith, Family and Fascination

Collective Worship Policy

Boutcher C.E. Primary School

Reviewed by: Megan Whitton

Last reviewed during: Autumn 2024

Next review due by: Autumn 2025

**"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
*John 13:34***

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Mission Statement

The Collective Worship Policy will support the delivery of the Mission Statement. Collective Worship takes place within the context of the Christian aims and ethos of Boutcher School as reflected by our Mission Statement.

“The aims and practice of Boutcher School seek to reflect the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as told in the Gospels. Jesus taught us, through His example of unconditional love and compassion, that we are all of equal value to God. Everyone is entitled to be regarded with dignity, fairness and respect. We strive to ensure that our school enshrines the values which Jesus taught us.”

The children at Boutcher discussed our Mission Statement and created their own interpretation of it.

“In our school everyone has the right to learn, the right to feel safe and the right to respect. They have the right to learn the good news of the Gospels and to know that God loves us all equally (whether we are rich or poor, young or old.)

We strive to live in the way that Jesus would want us to. We tell others Jesus's stories so that they can learn from them too and we try to set an example for other people in the way that we act. In all that we do we help each other and love others as Jesus would want us to.

Boutcher CE Primary School tries its best to remember that Jesus loves us, even when we make mistakes.”

SMSC Statement

Through Collective Worship children's SMSC is promoted and supported. We aim to prepare our children to maximise opportunities, develop their responsibility and enhance their experiences now and in the future.

Through each time of worship, we promote our Boutcher values of Faith, Family and Fascination. We enable every child to develop and flourish in a loving and open environment. We actively promote the fundamental British Values as stated by the Government and design opportunities in the curriculum to do this. We want Collective Worship to be enjoyable where children are fascinated by the learning of themselves, others and the world around them. At the heart of our school, is a rich and diverse culture and community that we enjoy and celebrate. We seek opportunities to work with the local community, explore our local area, welcome visitors to the school, go on trips and take part in community events and projects.

For further information, see the SMSC Policy.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

In Collective Worship we are committed to promoting and providing all children with high expectations and an equal entitlement and opportunities regardless of race, gender, culture, class, SEN or disability. We aim to meet the needs of all our children by personalising Collective Worship, promoting inclusivity to fully engage and motivate all children. This involves providing opportunities for SEND children to receive support and/or scaffolding as well as challenging all children to take an active part in their learning and to achieve their potential.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims and Objectives

Collective Worship should:

- be concerned with the worship of God
- provide an opportunity for pupils to develop their spiritual life
- promote Christian moral values
- promote the school values and explore the rationale for them
- enable children to develop an understanding of the Christian Faith
- teach about the customs and practices of the Church of England
- allow children to experience and explore the meanings of the liturgy and rituals of worship within Anglican tradition
- celebrate beliefs, values and ideals and pupils' talents
- respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God
- have a sense of occasion
- be invitational through inviting participation
- provide opportunities for individuals and the community to share what is of importance to them
- promote personal qualities such as the Fruits of the Spirit
- reflect on the lives of contemporary people and those of the past
- foster a sense of community and belonging
- be varied in style and include different forms of expression (art, music, story and dance)
- make use of symbols and imagery

The Place of Collective Worship in the life of the school

Christian worship is central to the experience of being a member of Boutcher School. Time set aside for acts of worship are very special parts of the day and they are surrounded by a sense of joy and reverence.

Children participate in a daily act of worship. In this time, they develop their knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and the Bible. They have the opportunity to reflect on their own ideas and experiences, wider moral issues and the ideas expressed in literature.

During acts of worship the children experience the liturgy, ritual and symbolism of the Anglican tradition.

Collective worship is at the heart of all we do at Boutcher School and we try to ensure that all children can attend worship without compromising their own religious beliefs. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from collective worship, they should arrange a meeting with the collective worship

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

coordinator to discuss their concerns. If a resolution cannot be achieved, withdrawal may be granted from services for a period of one year. After this time, parents should reapply.

The Content of Acts of Collective Worship

Each act of Collective Worship involves:

- a greeting at the beginning
- a time for quiet reflection
- a prayer or a space for prayers
- music to provide time for thought or celebration

At each act of collective worship in the hall, the altar is set with an altar cloth representing the season of the Anglican Church calendar, candles and a cross.

The format and Pattern of Worship

The focus of collective worship for each term are discussed and set each year. The theme will change and include a variety of Old Testament, New Testament, themes of Jesus' life, Christian traditions and practices, prominent Christians and prayers.

Most acts of collective worship take place in the school hall.

Monday Whole School Assembly

This time of collective worship may be led by the Headteacher, a member of staff, a child/group of children or someone else from our community. The time of worship starts with a piece of music for the children to listen to and reflect on whilst entering the school hall. Music may be religious or secular and is carefully chosen to inspire and invite the children to participate in the time of worship. Once everyone is in the hall, two candles on the altar are lit and a child is invited to pray following the Church of England prayer cycle. Collective worship often includes a piece of art which is chosen to link to the overall theme or the theme of an individual time of collective worship.

During collective worship, literature, the lives of inspirational people, current affairs, moral issues, symbols, Anglican traditions and festivals and other religious festivals are explored alongside the school's vision and values.

Collective worship happens in different styles and is expressed in different forms for example through storytelling, art, song and dance.

Towards the end of our time together in the hall, children are given a moment of silence to think and reflect on what they have heard. Children are invited to pray at the front, usually 3 or 4 children are chosen, they might focus their prayers on what they have heard or whatever they feel they would like to pray about.

The individual/group leading collective worship is responsible for updating the school's online calendar with: the value, music, art work, country and a brief outline/ description. Those leading worship should use the collective worship proforma (appendix 1) when planning and leading worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Tuesday Key Stage 1 Service Key Stage 2 Hymn Singing

The Key Stage 1 service is led by a member of SLT. Different classes lead a drama that forms the basis of reflection for the service. Children prepare for the services in their classroom with discussion and questioning led by the class teacher.

Parents are invited to come along and participate or observe. The Key Stage 1 includes some liturgy from the Anglican church including prayers of thanks and forgiveness.

Key Stage 2 hymn singing is attended by the whole key stage with Year 3 join in the summer term. Children learn new songs and practise the songs they will sing during Friday's Eucharist service.

Wednesday Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Wednesday Worship

The collective worship coordinator prepares a time of worship to happen in each class on a Wednesday morning by either the class teacher or support staff. The session usually lasts around 15 - 20 minutes and aims to provide children with the opportunity to reflect on themselves, their lived experiences and those of others. Wednesday Worship should be seen as an exciting and engaging time of worship by children and staff.

Wednesday Worship starts and ends with a prayer (the Church of England Prayer Cycle may be used). There will be an opportunity to think, question and reflect, music will be played and the children may record and share their reflections. Activities should be seen as an opportunity to support children in developing their SMSC not as 'work' to be completed.

Thursday Whole School Collective Worship with a Celebration Focus

This is usually led by the headteacher or a member of SLT. The focus of this time of worship is to celebrate the achievements of our children. It generally starts with a piece of music for the children to listen to and reflect on whilst entering the hall. Music may be religious or secular and is carefully chosen to inspire and invite the children to participate in this time of worship. Once everyone is in the hall, two candles on the altar are lit and a child or member of staff is invited to come and pray following the Church of England prayer cycle.

During this time of worship, some of the school values may be discussed.

Children are presented with certificates for good handwriting and presentation, for showing the Fruits of the Spirit (Pick of the Bunch) and for their conduct in the playground that demonstrates our vision and values. The number of family points is also announced with the winning team receiving a round of applause and the privilege of going first for lunch. Other achievements may also be included in this time of collective worship.

Towards the end of our time together all children and adults are given a moment of silence to think and reflect on what they have heard. Children are invited to pray at the front, they might focus their prayers on what they have heard or whatever they feel they would like to pray about.

Friday Key Stage 1 Hymn Singing Key Stage 2 Eucharist

Key Stage 1 hymn singing is attended by the whole of key stage 1 and Year 3 until the summer term when they join Key Stage 2. Children learn new songs and practise the songs they will sing during Tuesday's service.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The Key Stage 2 Eucharist service dramas are presented by a different class each week. The class represent the story for the day through drama and sometimes music. Each child in the class has a part in the drama. Children prepare for the services in their classroom with discussion and questioning led by the class teacher. This class also leads the prayers of petition and the class teacher is responsible for writing and distributing the prayers of thanks to the other classes in the key stage.

The KS2 service is a taken by the Priest of St. Mary's Bermondsey, The Reverend Charlie Moore. Sometimes visiting priests or priests from local churches may take the service in his absence.

At the Key Stage 2 Eucharist service, children in Years 5 and 6 who have been admitted are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Children who have been baptized and admitted outside of our school can also be included, providing their parents give permission to the headteacher or collective worship coordinator.

Parents are invited to attend the services as are friends of the school and known members of the community.

Special Services

The whole school worship together at St Mary Magdalen Church to mark the following festivals and times:

- Harvest festival
- Christmas Service
- Easter service (including the Eucharist)
- End of year service

Admission to Holy Communion

A special service is held for the Admission of Year 5 children to Holy Communion. This is usually led by the Reverend Charlie Moore during the spring term.

When children are in Year 5 they have the opportunity to attend Admission to Holy Communion Classes. These are held in school one afternoon a week, from 3.30pm- 4.30pm for approximately 8 weeks. The classes are led by the Reverend Charlie Moore of St. Mary's and are accompanied by a staff member.

In the classes the children have time to learn more about the traditions and beliefs of the Christian faith and reflect on their own ideas. When all the classes have finished, The Reverend Charlie Moore meets with each child that has attended to see that they are ready for Admission to Communion and ensure that it is their wish to do so. A special service is then held, where children are admitted to Holy Communion. Parents, Godparents and other members of the school and community are invited to attend the service.

It is a special and important time.

Planning for special services such as Admission to Holy Communion is completed by the class teacher and supported by the collective worship coordinator. All children in Year 5 participate in the drama in the service so that children are included in supporting their friends in this step of faith.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Organisation and Planning Responsibilities

At the start of each term the headteacher and/or collective worship coordinator will provide a plan for the term including collective worship dates, themes and details of those leading. A working calendar will be kept and updated.

When leading collective worship, the school values should be promoted and the theme agreed on in advance with the headteacher or collective worship coordinator.

Collective worship usually takes place in the hall where there is access to a computer, sound system and projector. The altar is set on Monday, Tuesday and Friday with an altar cloth representing the season of the Anglican Church calendar, candles and a cross. Year 6 have special responsibilities in preparing the altar and taking the offertory at the KS2 Eucharist service.

Classroom Worship

Each class participates in a session of classroom worship each week. This provides time for reflection and allows children to express their ideas. It is an important time for developing children's spirituality. It is a special time and is set apart from other times in the classroom. It is a calm and quiet time. Sometimes a candle may be lit, music played or the children will have an image or object to consider.

Children are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions and to value the opinions of those around them. Sometimes the time is used to reflect on fundamental questions or a topical issue that children may need some guidance in dealing with. At each classroom worship session there is time for prayer, singing and reflection.

Teachers are encouraged to use a range of worship styles and to make links with themes and events that are current and relevant. This will often link to the whole school theme also being followed in collective worship and services. Children will have a book to record prayers, reflections and questions. A whole class book will also be collated and displayed in the worship area. Children will choose whether their work can be included in the communal book

Each classroom has a worship area where children can visit freely to reflect, pray and worship God.



Role and Responsibility of Coordinator

The collective worship coordinator meets with the Reverend Charlie Moore and the headteacher to discuss and plan the themes for the next term's services. They are responsible for contributing to the meeting and providing comprehensive plans and questions for the service dramas and distributing this amongst staff.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

They are responsible for preparing service PowerPoints, including the hymns, for the Key Stage 2 Eucharist service and for the whole school services at St Mary's. The coordinator should ensure that prayers are written and that children and staff are prepared and know what to expect. The coordinator may be asked to plan and organise special services such as for Remembrance

The collective worship coordinator is responsible for supporting teachers with writing and preparing service dramas and should spend time with new teachers and those writing dramas for special services, ensuring that the services are in keeping with the Anglican and school tradition.

The collective worship coordinator is responsible for providing resources for Wednesday Worship for class teachers and support staff. They should plan opportunities for children and staff to grow and flourish as a result of collective worship.

The coordinator is responsible for writing an annual report on collective worship to be sent to the governors.

The collective worship coordinator should ensure that the worship web page on the school website is kept up to date.

They are responsible for ordering materials and resources relating to collective worship and staff members should speak to the coordinator if resources and equipment is required.

Evaluation

The theme for each term is reported to the governors at the beginning of the term.

An annual report is given to the Governing Body.

This policy is discussed annually with the Vision and Values Committee any amendments ratified by the full governing body.

Future Plan for School Closure

During previous school closures, online collective worship through Google Classroom provided our school community with a place to connect, communicate and encourage each other. Should another school closure occur, we will provide the same opportunities for worship in terms of opportunities to engage with worship independently as well as opportunities for communal prayer and virtual meets through Google Classroom led by the headteacher, collective worship coordinator and The Reverend Charlie Moore.

In addition to our previous provision, we would also provide opportunities for children to watch videos of teachers leading worship and we have collected a bank of singing and bible readings that may also be used to help the children feel more connected to God, to each other and the school.

Where Admission to Holy Communion is affected, this will be rescheduled at the earliest possible time, where the necessary safety precautions of children and their families can be met.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Promoting Diversity and Equality in Collective Worship

During Collective Worship, we seek to ensure that all children are represented and celebrated. We ensure that we learn and reflect on festivals, celebrations and individuals that represent the diversity within our school. We promote equality for all through our collective worship.

If children raise concerns during collective worship (either whole school or in classroom worship), the teacher leading the time of worship will respond appropriately and facilitate discussions, thoughts and feelings sensitively and openly. If discussions are held and cause concern, teachers should inform the collective worship coordinator or the headteacher of the nature of the discussions. If children share views that cause concern, these should be written on the appropriate forms and handed to the Headteacher. Teachers should be cautious in these discussions, remembering that they are a time of worship, and they should seek support from the SLT.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Appendix 1



"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
John 13:34



Collective Worship

Collective worship at Boutcher is inclusive, invitational and concerned with the worship of God. Before you lead collective worship please read our Collective Worship Policy.

Our Values

- We are a **family**
- We have **faith**
- And we have **fascination** in learning and the world about us.

We try to put kindness at the heart of everything we do.

Collective Worship Format

Song
Choose a song to play whilst everybody arrives. This may be religious or secular.

Light the Candles

Opening Prayer*
Ask for a volunteer to open in prayer using the Church of England Prayer Cycle.

Values
Remind everyone of our values and point out the value the assembly is focusing on.

Artwork
You might want to talk about the artist or the art. You should also share a map of the world and indicate the country of origin.

Main Talk
This should focus on one of our values. It should encourage children to develop their SMSC.

Moment of Reflection
Recap the themes and encourage a moment of silent reflection. You may present a question.

Closing Prayer*
Ask for volunteers (usually 3-4) to close in prayer – encourage them to pray about the themes explored.

Extinguish Candles

Song
Choose a song to play whilst everybody arrives. This may be religious or secular.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Prayers*

Prayers usually end with:

The person praying saying, "Lord we know you hear us."

Everyone else replies, "Yes Lord, thank you, Amen"