

Collective Worship policy

Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School



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Collective Worship Policy

Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School

At Baltonsborough Primary School, we value the benefits of working together in a small, caring community whose values are rooted in the Christian faith.

We provide a stimulating learning environment in which all are valued for the contributions they make to our school community.

Through the education and experiences we provide, we develop confident, inquisitive, inventive citizens.

The Aims of the School

We aim to provide:

- a secure environment in which children are happy
- a Christian environment where children learn about other faiths and cultures
- a stimulating and varied curriculum
- a means of developing a close partnership between home, school and the wider community
- a community where we feel valued, leading to high standards of behaviour and mutual respect
- all our children with the confidence to make the right choices
- all children with the ability to think at a deep level about how they learn

Hand in Hand We Live and Learn

Our ethos values are: trust, hope, resilience, respect, forgiveness, friendship, creativity, excellence, justice and thankfulness.

Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect on our school ethos values and current events that are important in our lives. It is attended by children and teachers and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship, the Law and the School's Trust deed.

As a Church of England school, it is our legal requirement to ensure that every child has the opportunity to worship daily. This can be done together as a school or in class groups. We must provide the opportunity to worship as stated in the schools trust deed. During this time, we also have the chance to reflect on the Anglican status of the school. We often celebrate special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Mother's Day and Easter in the Parish Church of St Dunstan's.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School that worship should:

- ✓ reflect the Christian ethos values of the school
- ✓ be clearly planned
- ✓ be appropriate to suit the age and understanding of all our pupils
- ✓ offer opportunities to worship God
- ✓ be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- ✓ offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- ✓ reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- ✓ be regularly monitored and evaluated
- ✓ underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- ✓ celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- ✓ be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on other people in the world around them
- ✓ help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- ✓ enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- ✓ offer opportunities to share worship with parents and governors celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- ✓ show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.
- ✓ reflect the schools' Trust Deed

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The responsibility of planning, organising and leading collective worship is shared between the Head teacher, the Teachers and the Governors. This is monitored to ensure it is up to date, relevant and of a high standard

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective worship usually takes place in a class room or in the school hall; however, we have the opportunity to hold collective worship in the Parish Church on special occasions.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship based on the Church Calendar and our ethos values. These are published at the beginning of each term. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes are based upon the ACE character gateways alongside the 'Roots and Fruits' resource. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Class teachers have the opportunity to develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We seek to encourage pupils to take a lead role in planning and delivering Collective Worship, to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Following the planning of worship; the evaluation and recording, needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other teachers, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

Collective Worship is monitored by the Collective Worship lead, the Headteacher and Governors. Evidence collected is in the form of reports and photographs.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community, however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Baltonsborough CE VC Primary School.

Personal, social and emotional development is also embedded within Religious Education. We follow the Somerset Awareness, Mystery and Values Syllabus.

