



BADSWORTH  
CofE School

CARE – Prepare – Believe

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

*Philippians 4:13*

## Collective Worship Policy March 2026

### Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian distinctiveness of our school and reaffirms our vision:

Here at Badsworth C of E Junior and Infant School, we ensure everyone flourishes through the way we:

### **CARE – Prepare – Believe**

**Consider and Respect Everyone** as Jesus Taught,

**Prepare** for a brighter future,

**Believe** you can make a difference

'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'

*Philippians 4:13*

Alongside our vision, collective worship focuses on our associated Christian values of Belonging, Kindness, Courage, Forgiveness, Trust and Hope. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

Therefore Collective Worship at Badsworth CE J&I School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

## **The Legal Requirements**

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character.

Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, key stages, classes, or other combinations.

- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but all classes are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship is inclusive, inspirational and invitational.

## **Inclusive**

Our worship at Badsworth CE J&I School, is designed to be fully accessible to all members of our school community, irrespective of their faith or belief backgrounds. We ensure that everyone feels included and valued.

## **Invitational**

Our worship is invitational. We create a warm and open environment where all are welcome to engage with the worship experience at their own comfort level, respecting the diversity of our school community.

## **Inspiring**

Inspired by our school vision and Christian Values, our worships aim to be transformational, guiding pupils and adults to reflect on their values, beliefs, and actions. We aspire to instil in our community our Christian Values – belonging, kindness, courage, forgiveness, trust and hope - motivating them to make a positive difference in the world. This is encouraged through our weekly 'One Thing' where pupils and adults are inspired to change an action linked to the weekly theme.

## **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

We aim to ensure that collective worship is meaningful and relevant for all children and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. Our school exerts no pressure on children to participate actively in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. However, Christian values are built into our vision and are reflected in the themes of our worship. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from collective worship, this is discussed with the Headteacher. We aim to make all children and their parents feel that attendance does not compromise their own feelings and that collective worship is an important time when the school comes together as an extended family.

## **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child will derive benefit from collective worship, whatever her or his ability. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders make every attempt to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

In some cases, pupils with additional or special needs may find whole school collective worship overwhelming to their sensory experience and as a result will undertake the content of worship in another place in school with a trusted adult. This will be appropriate for their needs.

Some pupils may attend worship for part of the session as they find some aspects harder to engage e.g. the loudness of singing or an external partners delivering worship whom they are not familiar with. In these cases, pupils may have a trusted adult with them to support them in accessing aspects of worship and then withdraw the pupil at an appropriate time.

Some pupils will have a trusted adult supporting them in worship, so they feel confident to access and understand the content. These adults usually sit close by or on the floor with the pupil.

A range of adaptations may be seen to enable pupils to access worship – such as ear defenders, fidget resources and for some pupil's physical resources such as wobble seats or cushions.

For some pupils with different religious beliefs or those with no belief, they are respectfully included and invited to participate in the aspects of worship they are comfortable with. This may have been agreed with parents / carers prior to starting school. For pupils who do this, they are asked to be respectful of others around them and to use the time they are not engaging e.g. prayer to sit and contemplate their own thoughts or beliefs.

### **Planning Collective Worship**

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher and follows the cycle of the Anglican year. The planning reflects our vision and values and is enhanced by resources – Roots and Fruits, Jumping Fish and Picture News.

The headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans and they use the same format of worship. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short-term plans for individual acts of worship. This approach is inclusive of pupils, who have regular involvement in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship.

Planning also refers to the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship in Schools (2021) and be inclusive, invitational and inspiration in nature.

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship. We attempt to mark out this special time by, welcoming children to worship, playing special music as children enter, lighting a candle, asking children to reflect quietly and inviting children to pray.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan their act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

### **Organisation**

An act of Collective Worship is held daily. This may involve the whole school or key stage groups.

The headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. The Headteacher starts the week to introduce the weekly theme which links to the school's Christian Values.

Key Stage workshops take place fortnightly and these are led by the relevant Key Stage staff.

Songs of Praise also takes place fortnightly.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point.

We use Friday afternoon as an Achievement Worship as an opportunity to share children's work and to celebrate their successes, linking to our school vision and Christian Values. These culminate in an act of Collective Worship and play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school.

### **Implementation**

As a school we offer a rich and varied diet of daily collective worship on a weekly basis, in addition we also plan services of worship around key festival dates in the Christian calendar, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Our weekly diet of daily collective worship has developed to meet the spiritual needs of all who attend, it includes the following:

- Whole school collective worship led by a senior teacher to explore core Christian values linked to the expression of our theologically rooted Christian vision.
- Pupil led worship to allow our pupils to grow and express their ideas, beliefs and become better spiritual leaders.
- Key Stage collective worship that provides age appropriate, personalised exploration of key Christian themes and messages.
- Visitor led worship, by people from the church, to explore themed Christian messages or key Christian events and festivals.
- Achievement worship where we seek to celebrate achievements of pupils who flourish in the widest sense in our school community and outside of it. The awards are linked to our vision and core Christian values to exemplify how they shape and support our daily lives.
- Songs of Praise worship where we learn, sing and praise through invitational songs and music linked to our Christian vision and values.

### **Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

Evaluation strategies used by staff and children for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness
- feedback from pupils, parents/carers and visitors
- observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school, and to one another
- visit by Governors.
- Evaluations of collective worship by Collective Worship Leader and Year 6 Collective Worship Group.

This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice. Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis.