

BUCKLAND ST MARY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff responsible: Headteacher and full Governing Body representative

Consultation: Formulated by above and presented to full governing body, staff and diocese

Date of policy formulation: May 2006

Rationale

This policy was last updated in 2001. It was formally known as the 'Worship Policy'. Changes to the policy reflect staffing changes both in the school and in the diocese, particularly the appointment of a new Headteacher and the appointment of a new Rector for the Blackdown Benefice, the Reverend Sue Green.

This policy has been formally adopted by the governing body. It is consistent with the Christian foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed, and takes account of the framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) and the handbook of Church School Leadership published by the Church of England. It is also in line with recent Collective Worship legislation as set out in DfES circular 1/94.

Aims

Buckland St Mary Church of England Primary School serves the parishes of Otterford and Buckland St Mary. A significant number of children come from these parishes, but children from other villages and the nearby town of Chard are also part of our school community. The school is a voluntary aided school.

This policy aims to ensure that all associated with our school community recognise the place of worship in our school and the ways in which we use and promote worship.

Our vision statement and list of aims outline the importance of recognising the place of God in our world and in our lives. We believe that collective worship plays a significant part in achieving our aims which are to:

- Develop in our children an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives
- Provide each child with the ultimate learning experience to enable them to achieve the highest standards
- Inspire a love of lifelong learning
- Equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens
- Equip our children to deal with change
- Respect individuality and celebrate diversity
- Motivate and enable all to achieve their personal best

- Create a safe and trusting environment where children are encouraged to express opinion, be independent learners, take responsibility, and improve by learning from their experiences
- Praise all types of achievement
- Create in all a sense of belonging

The aim of collective worship in our school is to:

- Develop in every child a knowledge of the immeasurable enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
- Develop in every child an understanding that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Develop an understanding in every child that God is always with them (Psalm 139, Matthew 28:20)
- Develop an understanding in every child that, because of the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the cross, they can approach God without fear (Hebrews 4:16)
- Develop in our children an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives
- Provide opportunities to worship God and experience the concepts of reverence, celebration and reflection
- Contribute to children's spiritual, moral and cultural development
- Enable the children to reflect on Christian values and beliefs
- Be inclusive, fostering a sense of community and unity in the school
- Develop in the children a sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- Provide meaningful experiences which take account of children's age, ability and family background
- Foster in the children an approach of enquiry and tolerance towards people of other faiths and those with no faith, by encouraging children's sharing and understanding of them

Organisation

Collective worship takes place every day. The whole school meets three times a week for collective worship. The headteacher leads two of these times, and another member of the teaching staff leads the other one. From September, whole school collective worship times will be increased to four per week. Currently, on the other two days of the school week, collective worship is class based and led by class teachers. In addition, collective worship currently takes place at the local St Mary's church on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

The headteacher, who is also the Collective Worship coordinator, plans whole school collective worship. The headteacher is also responsible for the day to day organisation of collective worship, resourcing, and meeting any identified training needs. The designated Collective Worship governor, currently Mr David Clitheroe, participates in the monitoring of collective worship and in planning for its improvement.

Whole school collective worship is planned termly by the headteacher. Copies of this planning are sent to the Collective Worship governor, the rector, and the diocese. Planning includes the theme, the title, and the worship song/hymn. We recognise the difference between collective worship and 'assembly' in that collective worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and

offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect. It also contributes significantly to the life and wellbeing of the school.

Class based collective worship is planned by class teachers and is monitored by the headteacher. Again, this time offers opportunities for children to worship, pray and reflect. Teachers are encouraged to link their collective worship times to whole school themes or current topical issues (i.e. praying for other countries, world leaders, their area or their town)

Visitors

We welcome the input of visitors to our collective worship times. The rector of our local benefice leads collective worship regularly both in and out of school. We also invite the county evangelist, currently Mike Strange, to lead collective worship and a local rural lay preacher. In addition, the rector is invited to observe other collective worship in the school and to offer her input into the planning of collective worship.

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to ensure that collective worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the school's Equal Opportunities Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the headteacher. We would however aim to discourage such action given the Christian foundation of our school. This right is also stated in our prospectus.

Planning for Improvement

Collective Worship is evident in our school improvement planning. With the rector's input, we are currently looking at introducing a child-friendly Anglican liturgy into some of the collective worship times. In addition, our School improvement Plan prioritises involving parents in collective worship to a greater extent and increasing the use of resources displayed around the school which help to reflect our church status.

Dissemination of the policy

Each teacher has a copy of this policy and a copy can be found in the Headteacher's office.

The school prospectus contains a statement about collective worship and the right of parents to withdraw their child from it.

A copy of the policy is available to any current or prospective parent, on request to the Headteacher.

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

As this is a statutory policy, it is reviewed annually.

Signed (Headteacher):

Signed (Chair of Governors):

Signed (Designated Governor):

Date: May 2006

Reviewed: February 2007