Bridekirk Dovenby School

At Bridekirk Dovenby School, we nourish the uniqueness of our community.

Rooted in love, a rich and diverse curriculum enables **all** to flourish and grow.

Confident and secure, our children reach out, ready to embrace the seasons of life in all its fullness.

Psalm 1

"They are like trees, planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper."

Collective Worship Policy

September 2024

Inclusive ❖ Invitational ❖ Inspiring

1. Background: Collective Worship Legislation and Guidance

All maintained schools must provide daily Collective Worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development[1].

In community schools, Collective Worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'[1].

In Church schools, the requirement is instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed.

Best practice in delivering Collective Worship[2] requires it to be:

- **Inclusive:** so that is accessible and meaningful to all, whatever their faith or none.
- **Invitational:** so that there is no compulsion do 'do anything' just a warm offer to be present and engage with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** so that it motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and wider community's behaviour and actions.

2. Collective Worship and Vision:

Collective Worship is a special time each day at Bridekirk Dovenby CE School. It is the time when we gather together, pause and reflect in our classes, Key Stages or as whole school.

Collective Worship is an expression of our Vision and contributes significantly to the flourishing of all. It offers pupils the chance to *Work Together, Aim High and Shine Bright - with the Glory of the Lord Shining on them…* It enables pupils and adults to develop spiritually, emotionally and socially, asking, reflecting on and answering big questions about meaning and our responsibilities as part of a global community including, *'Who am I?' 'Why am I here' 'How then shall I live?'*

2. Invitational Worship and Spiritual Development:

Our word 'Worship' comes from an Old English word meaning to acknowledge or attribute worth. If we choose to worship, we are acknowledging how and why God is worthy of praise and thanks. It is a personal experience which depends on an individual's attitude. Worship which is directed by, or insisted upon, by someone else is not, in fact, worship.

At our school, worship is invitational. All are offered the chance to worship daily, including through prayer and often through song, but it is not expected. Collective Worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs or convictions. It does not seek a uniform response from pupils or adults.

Through our Religious Education (RE) curriculum (Questful & Understanding Christianity), our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum (Jigsaw) and our Collective Worship planning and delivery, we support pupils in developing their own personal convictions. Our school offers pupils a safe space in which to explore their feelings, thoughts and beliefs.

Every day, all members of our school community are taken to the threshold of worship. Whether or not to cross it is for the individual to decide.

3. How Collective Worship is made special:

We take the time to make our Collective Worship time special every day by:

- Creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship and/or reflection (through use of music, a visual focus, artefacts, candles and other sensory stimuli).
- Careful and intentional timetabling so that Collective Worship time is not disrupted by other activities occurring on the school site and occurs at a time when pupils are most responsive.
- Ensuring every member of the school family is present. We try not to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship for interventions or 'catch-up' time.
- Choosing themes and content which are appropriate to our school context, reflect our vision and are pitched appropriately for those present.
- Inspiring each member of our school community to reflect on their own behaviours and how they might make a change for their own sake or for the sake of others.

4. Aims of Collective Worship:

We aim to make every act of Collective Worship meaningful, engaging and relevant to those present, whether they choose to worship or not. As a Church of England school, our worship is predominantly Christian in nature.

However, at Bridekirk Dovenby School, we ensure that everyone, whatever their faith or none, can take part with integrity. For example, a Bible story illustrating Jesus' teachings (on loving one another, on caring for the vulnerable, on generosity or any other theme) will regularly be shared. The message of that Christian story is unpacked and made relevant to everyone in attendance so that all may be inspired by it.

Collective Worship sessions offer rich opportunities for teaching and encouraging reflection. At our school, we have the following aims for acts of Collective Worship:

- To offer **pupil-centred sessions** which either reflect pupils' experiences or appropriately expand and broaden them (content).
- To provide **variety** (in terms of content, the ways in which pupils are encouraged to interact, the use of music etc) to appeal to the preferences of as many pupils as possible.
- To afford pupils and adults **space to reflect on the spiritual**, acknowledging the capacity of our pupils to seek meaning beyond the material and physical.
- To allow time **to respond to social and moral issues and the questions which relate to life as a global citizen**.
- To **provoke** in those present **a sense of meaning, wonder, joy and celebration or thanksgiving**.
- To enable pupils and adults to explore the use of **silence** for stillness reflection, meditation, exploring inner thoughts and feelings and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness **of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life** and to explore the responses that have been made to these questions by people of faith.
- To develop an understanding of how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible are relevant to each of us, whatever our personal convictions.
- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and celebrate the **Christian values on** which the school is based.
- To enable the school community to explore a **range of forms of worship** and recognise the rich traditions of the Anglican church (locally, nationally and around the world).
- To develop an understanding of the Christian belief in a God of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

5. Use of Music

The use of music at Bridekirk Dovenby School is very important. We use music which reflects our school's vision. Music plays an important part in developing our pupils as respectful and loving global citizens, and in helping them to develop spiritually. We introduce our pupils to a diverse range of musical styles and genres to help them find a music which is most helpful to them for reflection or worship. We also represent (through video) a **diverse make-up of cultures** and backgrounds to help our pupils to make sense of the rich global musical community and how music is used in worship across the globe.

Music is chosen carefully to avoid asking those to declare a faith in a God they may not have. Some of our music contains elements which are confessional (they declare a faith in God or desire to worship). However, where such songs are used, we explain what the lyrics mean to Christians in order that pupils (and staff) may decide, for themselves, whether to sing them. We take the time to explain that some songs, sung by Christians, involve the artists singing to God. However, the words of such songs lend themselves to our school family choosing to sing to whomever they wish – God, a family member, a friend. Examples include; Who Can You Trust / My Lighthouse / Be Joyful in Hope

Some worship songs used are great for music-based learning opportunities (regardless of whether the lyrics are reflective of pupils' beliefs) and, as such, have great worth as a teaching tool. An example is, *Our God is a Great Big God*. Whether or not pupils agree with the sentiment of the lyrics, they can benefit greatly from the opportunity for teaching rhythm (semi-breve, minim, crochet, and quaver). By using worship songs for more than just their lyrics, they are made invitational and relevant to all.

6. Organisation

An act of Collective Worship takes place daily[1] and usually lasts 20 minutes.

The whole school comes together on a Tuesday and Friday with Key Stage and class worships on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Day	***Time***	***Nature of Worship***	***Leader***
Monday	10.15am	Whole School Values assembly	Head Teacher & Visitors Class teacher
Tuesday	10.15am or 2.45pm	Key Stage Worship - Picture News Collective Worship	KS 2 class teachers (shared)
Wednesday	10.15am or 2.45pm	Pupil – Led Collective Worship Fruits and	Individual Groups of children / Techer with Pupil Support
Thursday	10.15am or 2.45pm	Values Class Worship – Living our Vision & Values Resources (Imaginor) Outdoor Worship for Schools Resource (Sarah Hargreaves)	Teacher Led
Friday	10.15am	Whole School Celebration Assembly Based on our whole school half termly Value / PSHE Focus – Jigsaw Resource	Headteacher and Pupils

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and often contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school (For example NISCU, the NSPCC, foodbank) to lead us in worship. We also encourage visitors from other faiths to lead our worship, or to take part during their visits to our school.

At Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter and to say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 Leavers, the whole school, and our family and community, visits the church for an act of worship led jointly by the pupils and the church.

7. Content

We follow a values-based yearly plan for Collective Worship (**see Appendix 1**), focussing on one of our core Christian values each half term.

Content for individual sessions is not prescribed, in order to allow for those leading to draw on topical or world events, personal experiences, situations which have arisen in the school or wider community.

However, planning always includes:

- an explanation of how the current value helps us to live out our vision
- links to the Church year – **Revd Brentnall**
- suggested relevant Bible stories
- reference to relevant world faiths/festivals/celebrations occurring
- relevant links with PSHE, SMSC and British Values or any other part of the school curriculum
- suggestions for activities or opportunities for children's participation through role play, drama, discussion, reflection stations, singing etc.
- ideas for following up whole-school worship either in Key Stages or in the classroom
- suggestions for reflection stations relevant to the theme of the half term.

Crucially, our planning also reflects the input of the pupils via class feedback / the worship leaders / pupil voice questionnaires etc.

8. Training

Any leader of worship (pupil or adult) at this school has access to training to support them in their role. In particular, through training, we ensure a consistent approach to the use of **inclusive** and **invitational** language in all sessions.

Training takes place throughout the year. Governors, the head teacher and RE lead attend Diocesan training and disseminate this amongst staff.

Staff meetings are also used for CPD and the headteacher, governor or invited visitor lead these sessions.

September INSET days are used to remind all staff of the CW organisation throughout the year.

9. Visitors

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of Collective Worship. We are very grateful to those people in our local community who give their time to lead worship in our school. Pupils benefit greatly from the varied experiences they provide.

A copy of this policy, together with planning is available for all visitors who lead Collective Worship.

10. Evaluation of Collective Worship

The effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship is monitored termly. Monitoring involves the whole school community. It is led by governors who join us for acts of Collective Worship, meet with members of staff, conduct pupil voice interviews etc.

The views of pupils are fed back to the Headteacher staff and their views inform future planning.

11. Right of Withdrawal

Given the inclusive and invitational nature of our acts of Collective Worship outlined above, we hope that every parent or carer would wish their child to take part in this special part of the school day. However, parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. There is no requirement to explain or give

reasons for a request of withdrawal. However, if this is something you are considering for your child, you are warmly encouraged to contact the Headteacher, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

12. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

13. References

[1]Education Reform Act 1988, section 7(1); DfE Circular 1/94 (1994)

[2]Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance Document: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

Resources

- **Picture News** – Online Login for all resources
  - Main Site – Login URL: www.picture-news.co.uk/users
    Username: julia@
    Password: picturenews
  - SYMBOLS -Login URL: www.picture-news.co.uk/users
    Username: symbols@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk
    Password : picturenews
- Imaginor Books and Downloads (see email and information on the school server)
  - Big Bible Stories 1&2
  - Oscar Out of The Box
  - Roots & Fruits Resource 1 &2
  - Living our Vision & Values
- Outdoor Worship for Schools (Books and Download on the school server)
- Big Start Assemblies
  https://bigstartassemblies.org/
  Julia@ (Dovenby123)
- Assemblies.org
  https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/current/

- Creative ideas for reflective prayer spaces

Flame: Creative Children's Ministry (flamecreativekids.blogspot.com)

MUSIC for Collective Worship

- Out of The Ark – Music Resource
  https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/login.html
  Username admin@
  Password Dovenby
- BBC Assembly Songs













