



Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Date Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2025

Tracey Fletcher

Head Teacher

Tim Parkman

Chair of Governors

Our Mission Statement: To inspire through faith and love, that all may flourish.

*Those who do what is right will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
¹³ planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
¹⁵ proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no *wrong* in him." Psalm 92 12:15*

The Christian values that we hold as a school permeate throughout all areas of school life.

Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, Compassion, Trust, Justice

Religious education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10)

Vision Statement

Building on our Christian distinctiveness and nurturing ethos, we will enable every child to flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally. Our mission statement, 'To inspire through faith and love, that all may flourish' underpins our Collective Worship policy and actions within it. We will achieve this through inspirational, exciting and challenging learning, utilising our natural environment by creating endless possibilities and making a positive contribution to society.

Aims:

In Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Our aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe and wonder,
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word,
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality,
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and framework into which they can start to integrate experiences,
- Explore different ways of praying, providing opportunities to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers,
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate their individual qualities that each child and adult bring to the school community,
- Reflect on puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate life,
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs,
- Encourage respect for others religious beliefs and practices,
- Strengthen and support our school community, reaffirming its Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.

Legal Requirements

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenants and practices of the Church of England. Worship at Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions. There must be a daily act of collective worship, but this can take place at any time of day and in any groupings.

The school's governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher.

Right to Withdrawal

As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of a church school, this will be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasion, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet the Head of School to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship to their particular faith or denomination, the School Monitoring Council (SMC) and Head of School will seek to respond positively to such requests so long as arrangements can be made at no additional costs to the school and that an alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

Format

Through collective worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Time will be given for celebration, both for accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be given time to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Our act of worship is led by members of staff or priests, ministers and other visitors such as Open The Book Volunteers. It is planned to take account of the major festivals and seasons of the Church. Opportunities are considered to develop spirituality over a period of time and those leading worship are encouraged to link worship to a particular theme. Worship plays an important part in promoting the Christian values of our school and where possible are linked to Bible stories.

Conclusion

At Bishop Cornish, all should view collective worship as meaningful and valuable, a time when all adults and children are as one to reflect on joys, and sorrows, to express thanks, share concepts and experiences and reaffirm the values of the school community and God's family, of which they are all part.