



# Bluecoat C of E Primary School Great Torrington



## Collective Worship Policy



# GREAT TORRINGTON BLUECOAT C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**This policy was adopted by the Governing Body**

**March 2014**

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**The policy was reviewed**

**November 2015**

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### **Introduction**

Bluecoat C of E Primary School is a spiritually vibrant learning community, to which all members contribute, within which all feel appreciated and valued, and through which all are empowered to excel. This policy embraces the context and spirit of this mission statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of our school, respecting all children equally. We believe in valuing childhood whilst promoting a lifelong love of learning and an appreciation of the world in which we live. We do this through recognition and celebration of the things adults and children learn and experience every day. The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate and celebrate our beliefs and values within the context of the Fruits of the Spirit.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

### **Collective Worship at Bluecoat School:**

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion, helping them to learn about religious worship and providing a framework for later understanding.
- fosters a reverential attitude to God.
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- provides an opportunity to participate in religious worship.
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- offers expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

**Collective Worship at Bluecoat School is carried out in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school which require worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. Through Collective Worship we:**

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- raise pupils' curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them
- help pupils distinguish between right and wrong
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- celebrate individual and collective achievements
- develop a sense of community within the school
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship
- provide spiritual experiences which will enable all members of the school community to flourish

#### **How do we develop and monitor Collective Worship in our School?**

The governing body includes three Foundation Governors and an allocated Ex-officio position for Incumbent. The school is inspected under the section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.

The School Improvement Plan recognises the importance of enhancing the moral and spiritual wellbeing of the school community within an inclusive Christian ethos. A specific development plan for Collective Worship and Religious Education reflects the principles of the teaching and learning policy and complements the school improvement plan.

The Collective Worship Leader has responsibility for managing worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with and national developments are implemented. The CW leader supports staff and governors in an advisory capacity.

We ensure that the quality of Collective Worship is maintained through: CW focus group / CW visitors group feedback and regular visits from Foundation Governors.

## **How do we organise Collective Worship in our School?**

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place across the school. Each week these include upper and lower school, key stage and class gatherings. Health and Safety considerations are currently being addressed to allow the whole school to gather together half-termly for a shared assembly which will include Collective Worship.

Each week the worship follows a planned theme. The structure of assemblies varies according to the theme but may include music, a song of praise, a story or talk, drama and celebration, a reading from the Bible, and a period of reflection and prayer. The Fruits of the Spirit form an integral aspect of Collective Worship at Bluecoat School.

Provision for Collective Worship is planned by the Collective Worship Leader in collaboration / liaison with Key Stage Leaders where appropriate. Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated as appropriate.

### **Elements of Worship**

*“There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression.”*

Music is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. Pupils’ attention is drawn to it each day.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two are used at each assembly, relative to the theme. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Participation in prayer will not be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord’s Prayer and children’s prayers may be used. A candle is sometimes lit and provides a focus for pupils’ thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils’ response.

Scripture verses may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama and demonstration.

## **Inclusion**

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school. Where parents exercise their right to withdraw their children from CW, parents are invited to discuss their decision with the head teacher. The head teacher will explain the CW policy and attempt to identify the reason for withdrawal and agree alternative arrangements. Parents will also be informed of the interconnected nature of the curriculum at Bluecoat School. We aim to eradicate any barrier to inclusion in Collective Worship. A determined effort is made to support those with disabilities, special educational needs, special gifts and talents and those learning English as an additional language (EAL). Many of our songs incorporate signing and every opportunity is given for all pupils to participate in class –led assemblies. A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is actively encouraged, diversity is celebrated and the religious views of all members of the school community are fully respected.