

Our Vision

In our school community, we create an environment where aspiration, inspiration and motivation flourish.

Rooted in our Christian Values, we **aspire** for every child to reach their fullest potential.

We **inspire** our children to explore their unique talents and passions, instilling a lifelong love of learning.

We **motivate** our children through a rich and varied curriculum, to cultivate confident, compassionate, and resilient individuals who are prepared to make a positive impact on the world.

Values which feed into this....

- Love
- Respect
- Resilience
- Compassion (children's choice)
- Trust (parent's choice)

Our Christian Ethos is rooted in the parable of the 2 builders ([Matthew 7:24-29](#)).

Rationale

Collective Worship at Branscombe Church of England Primary School provides a major opportunity to express the Christian ethos of our school community. Caring relationships, vision and values all play a part in this important daily celebration of all that is of supreme worth to the school community.

The Principles of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is **inclusive**. It is an activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain; something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none, to be able to join in with.
- It can foster a sense of fellowship and community by bringing pupils, staff and parents whenever possible, together.
- It has a sense of occasion, either as a whole school or in an individual class situation.
- It introduces pupils to aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere, celebrating God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whilst respecting the integrity of all present. Therefore, it is **invitational**, children and staff are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is their choice how they respond.

- Collective Worship is **inspirational**, a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives. It supports the school community's spiritual development, reflecting on stories of inspiration, struggle and hope.
- It provides opportunities to invite members of the wider community into school and to celebrate special occasions.
- It allows time in a busy and demanding school day to stop and be still, to celebrate, reflect upon and affirm our Christian and moral values, connecting the inner with the outer.
- It is a chance to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school as well as in the local and international community.
- It is a chance to celebrate and give thanks for occasions of significance, including festivals, thereby contributing to children's cultural development.
- It is curricular. It is a learning experience intended to be meaningful part of the whole curriculum, focusing on that which is 'of worth' in the life and work of the school.
- It encourages children to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- It provides opportunities for the exploration of a wide range of social and interpersonal issues in the context of a moral framework – supporting the fundamental British Values.
- It celebrates and reflects the Anglican foundation of the school.

Legal requirements

- ❖ All pupils at Branscombe C of E Primary School shall take part each day in an act of collective worship, unless the parent requests that s/he be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school.
- ❖ The daily act of collective worship shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.
- ❖ Branscombe C of E Primary School is part of the Link Academy Trust (and was previously a Voluntary Aided) therefore the provision of CW must be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the academy.

Taking part in Collective Worship.

Even though it is not a legal requirement, it is hoped that all staff will be prepared to lead collective worship. Worship at Branscombe C of E Primary School may be different from the worship offered by individual faith. It is for this reason that worship in schools has been called 'collective' since it must promote the spiritual development of people of all faiths, or of none.

We aim to involve all of our school community as far as possible in our collective worship, both in attendance and participation; this includes our children, our staff, our parents and where possible our governors.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. As a school we encourage dialogue with parents, so that any concern about any activity is discussed to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

Collective Worship and Assembly

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of our school. Part of it can be concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

Visitors

We welcome other people into school to lead our worship, including Rev Father Steven Martin from our parish church.

Visitors could be of another Christian denomination but they should not promote their own style of beliefs ahead of those of the Church of England. People of other religions could be involved in assemblies but would not lead the act of worship.

Context of Collective worship

Our pattern of Collective Worship is set out below:

Monday – Singing Worship

Tuesday – Values or Pupil Led Worship

Wednesday – Spirituality Focus (spirituality is done throughout the week also but this session has it as a focus)

Thursday – British Values or Celebrating what is happening in the World Calendar

Friday - Celebration Worship with Parents

Planning and resources

We carefully plan for and evaluate our acts of worship, organising our planning around the church calendar, to reflect the festivals and events of the Christian year and also the values of the Christian faith, including our core school values. There is of course enough flexibility to respond to particular and immediate situations that are relevant and which impact on the children directly, for example events of local, national or international importance.

We use the format of welcome, teaching/learning, reflecting and responding, with the Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach to promote the children's spiritual and moral development. This is a very successful way of giving children a process to think through big issues.

Windows: What is the big issue? What are we looking at?

Mirrors: What does this mean to me? What is the impact on me?

Doors: What am I going to do about it? How does this impact my community?

Resources used to enhance our collective worship include focal object/display of artefacts, bible readings, Picture News, stories, music, poetry, art, power-point presentations and use of on-line resources.

A candle is lit to act as a focal point and this helps to mark the beginning of worship and the end of more 'assembly' based administration. Also, a Bible is opened and a cross placed in the centre of the table. A member of staff or a child opens the Collective Worship using the opening prayer:

Leader: We take out the Bible and open it as we think about...

All: God, the Father, who teaches us through his word.

Leader: We take out the cross and place it in the centre as we think about...

All: God's son Jesus who loves us.

Leader: We take out the candle and light it as we think about...

All: God the Holy Spirit who guides us.

At the end of Collective Worship, the leader or a child says a closing prayer and blows out the candle.

In our school, we also have children who have been trained by our local vicar to lead Collective Worship sessions, they do this once per half term. They either choose their own focus or use our vision and values as inspiration.

The Collective Worship programme will be evaluated annually by the Collective Worship Leader/Academy Headteacher via discussion with staff, pupils, parents, governors, or by means of a survey/questionnaire.

This policy is reviewed and approved by the Standards and Curriculum Committee on a 3 yearly cycle.

Approved by the S&C Committee: October 2024