



'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

# Bilbrook CE Middle School

## Collective Worship Policy

### 1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Collective Worship at Bilbrook Church of England Middle School should play a central role in the life of our school. It offers the whole school community opportunities to reflect together on its distinctive Christian character and foundation

It makes a significant contribution to the ethos and values of the school. The aims of collective worship are based on the broad principles that collective worship should be inclusive, educational, God centered and affirming Christian beliefs, and that it must honour the Anglican foundation of the school. It also allows opportunities to affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or religion.

### 2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We recognise the legal requirement for our daily act of worship, as a Church of England school, to be according to our Christian foundation and consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

Worship will be:

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of students
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for students, at the request of their parents, and for staff.

### **3 AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The main aims of collective worship in this school are to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of students;
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence;
- create an atmosphere in which belief in God is recognised and respected;
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling students to participate in a variety of ways;
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular);
- affirm the Christian faith;
- enable students to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents;
- foster and value a search for meaning and values in life;
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the students' experience and to living together in community recognise and respect the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community;
- develop a sense of community and shared values;
- consider the needs of others and foster charitable works;
- be challenging and inspiring;
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth; and
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response.

### **4 MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher and the Assistant Headteacher are responsible for school, staff and school community, have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher have responsibility for managing collective worship on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching.

Records of content are kept.

The RE co-ordinator has responsibility for the ongoing development of collective worship.

The school's Senior Leadership Team and the Foundation Governors monitor collective worship and report to governors.

## **5 CURRENT PRACTICE**

The pattern for worship each week is as follows:

Three days a week: Whole school worship in the hall led by a member of SLT or other member of staff or by a tutor group.

Two days a week: An act of worship in form groups, led by the form tutor, including a thought for the day and prayer.

Every day: A prayer said at the start and end of the day

In addition, the school worships in Church regularly and holds Eucharist services in school.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis. These include the Priest in Charge, visiting clergy, representatives of charities, parents, and other people as appropriate.

Acts of Worship in tutor groups are short, and aim to set an appropriate tone for the day in school.

Worship in church is for the whole school. Parents are able to opt out of their child's participation in the termly Eucharist, half termly church services and assemblies in school.

Acts of worship may include the following elements:

- Shared experience;
- Opportunities to deepen the understanding and stretch the imagination of students;
- Opportunities to respond in some way;
- Music;
- Singing hymns and songs;
- Readings from the Bible and other sources;
- Prayers and times to reflect; and
- Participation by students.

The programme for the year may contain the following:

- Use of the Bible and relevant teaching about Jesus and the Christian faith;
- The Christian and Anglican calendar;
- Important festivals and traditions in other religions as appropriate;
- National and international events;
- Other themes of topical relevance as they occur;
- Local events and events in school;
- Praise and success worship; and
- Values and morals affirmed in school.

## **6 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

It is the responsibility of the RE co-ordinator to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the worship policy, in consultation with the Senior Leadership team and Foundation Governors.

Monitoring will involve feedback from staff, parents and students.

Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings.

As appropriate, changes will be made and new developments introduced into the practice.

A programme of festivals and themes is prepared annually which is shared across the federation and should inform the topics for worship across the school.