Collective Worship Policy

Our school helps us to walk with Jesus to be the best that we can be. Through God's love and guidance, we create an ethos of shared endeavour, friendship and co-operation to help us flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

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Equality statement

At Baxenden St John's School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

Fundamentals

In our Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in uniformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed, and by the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts.

Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of the school and of the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. We are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard.

Worship is shown as being a central feature of life, acknowledging God's glory and presence, responding to God as Creator and Redeemer. It is a two way process expressing a relationship with God with His response in love and action.

Worship is seen as a celebration of the life and concerns of the school over-spilling into all areas of school life as well as providing guidance and pattern for future individual development. Values and beliefs are proclaimed in hymns, songs, prayers, literature, collective action and by atmosphere created to assist reverence. It is designed to reinforce Christian values upheld by the Church of England, the World-wide church and the school. It contributes to the children's education and develops knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and other faiths. It also introduces children to the variety and richness of the Church of England traditions.

Pupils are introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian Faith and helped to explore them. These include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through His life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God.
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity.

- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance.
- The importance of prayer.
- The central symbols of Christianity.
- The cycle of the Church year.

Broad aims

- To contribute to the mission statement and general aims of the school.
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To develop links with St John's Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

Organisation and delivery

Worship is at 9.10am each day:
Monday – Whole school worship led by HT
Tuesday – Key Stage worship (alternate wks) led by key stage leaders/class teachers & pupils
Wednesday – Whole School Worship led by the vicar
Thursday – Prayer and Praise led by Music Leader
Friday – Whole school celebration led by HT/DHT

On the final Wednesday of every month, there is a whole school worship in St. John's church, to which the local community and parents are invited to. This worship is led by the 'God Squad', who plan and implement the worship with the help of the vicar.

Worship leaders are appointed on a half termly basis in each class. They support and lead 'in class' worship and lead in whole school/key stage worship by lighting candles or leading prayer and evaluating worship. They also promote British Values within each class, which they discuss in a weekly 'Newsround Club'

Christian symbols used include a cross and 3 candles creating an atmosphere of reverence.
The Worship leader begins with a greeting, these are changed and used at different times and perhaps new ones introduced reflecting the connection with Anglican worship. Music is sometimes used to introduce Worship. Other members of staff may lead worship and there are regular group or class presentations built into themes. Special guests are also invited as and when is appropriate.

Worship usually lasts for 20 minutes although this may vary. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DFE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole school curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning, discussion, question and answer, drama and improvisation.

An extensive variety of hymns/songs is used along with prayers. The church year is celebrated, and different forms and ideas of worship are used. The calm and respectful atmosphere for worship is created by pupils and staff entering and leaving the hall quietly to music or silence. Music and singing play important parts in the act of worship with all pupils and staff joining in.

Content and Approach

Worship is based on biblical teaching exploring aspects of faith and sharing of concern for others and is linked to Christian values of hope, love, thankfulness, friendship, respect, truth, justice and humility with learning-related issues on how these impact on our lives today. We also share and celebrate pupil achievement and citizenship. Worships are based around a half termly scheme, with ideas are taken from 'Roots & Shoots'.

Worship in the school year will also include:

1. Harvest thanksgiving
2. Advent
3. Christmas
4. Epiphany
5. Lent
6. Easter
7. Ascension
8. Holy Spirit/Pentecost
9. John the Baptist (saint after which the church is named)
10. Trinity

Worship is designed to help children reflect on their own lives, commitments and beliefs based on Christian values. There is a great emphasis on deepening children's awareness of the needs of others and the school has supported a range of charities, helping them to become 'courageous advocates against injustice':-

- British Heart Foundation
- Fairtrade
- Bethany Children
- NSPCC
- Barnados
- Shelter
- Macmillan
- Various appeals e.g. Children in Need, Sports relief

The school and church work and worship together. The school produces nativity plays and sketches which are performed in church. The school goes into church regularly each term as part of worship for festivals such as Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Ascension day. Parents and grandparents are warmly invited to attend these services. Visitors from the diocese are warmly welcomed into school. Worship provides children with opportunities for leading and speaking, drama and performance skills, singing and group preparation and presentation.

On the final Wednesday of every month, there is a whole school worship in St. John's church, to which the local community and parents are invited to. This worship is led by the 'God Squad', who plan and implement the worship with the help of the vicar.

Class worship

Each class takes the lead in preparing and delivering whole school worship as part of a themed group of worship sessions. Parents and Governors are invited to attend. Examples of themes used are: Miracles of Jesus, Fruits of the Spirit, Parables of Jesus

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

The HT plans the yearly content of Collective Worship in consultation with the vicar. Major services are also prepared in consultation with the Vicar. Worship is recorded on a Worship planning sheet. Teachers/ worship leaders/ pupils evaluate worship.

The Provision and Policy for Collective Worship will be reviewed regularly, by the teaching staff the Governing Body and theVicar.

Parental Rights

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship, but parents are informed that removal of pupils from Worship or Religious Education cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of theschool.