



Sutton Benger Voluntary Aided Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Vision:

Together as one family we...
Strive "for faith, love and peace" (2 Timothy 2:22)
Believe in the values of God
Succeed with grace

As a Church school we support and live out the Church of England's vision for education as well as our schools' individual Christian vision. We believe that every child should flourish and 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). The experiences and engagement in Collective Worship allow our children to do this. 'Dignity / Respect', 'Community', 'Wisdom' and 'Hope' are interwoven through the teaching of our Christian Values throughout the school year. We believe in the power of community as lived out through the establishment and promotion of a positive school family, emphasised when we worship together.

At the heart of our schools' vision is 'faith, love and peace'. We strive in all that we do to ensure that we promote positive relationships in our school family. We use the Bible to teach these specific values as well as providing contemporary examples that the children can identify with and demonstrate in their everyday lives both now and in the future. Through our understanding and tolerance of the beliefs of others we believe that we will live out our vision, providing hope for the future, striving for 'faith, love and peace'.

As a school family, we succeed with grace as certificates celebrating success in the super learning powers (resilience, resourcefulness, helping others to learn, learning together, thinking about our own learning and being an aspirational learner) are awarded in a special weekly Celebration Worship. In addition, we have a name in the Golden Book celebrated in the weekly celebration worship.

Aims and Objectives

At Sutton Benger School, we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and are encouraged to share in it. The aims of our collective worship are to:

- deliver our schools' Christian Vision
- strengthen and support our school family and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God;
- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school family;
- allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;

- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- explore Christian concepts and values, including friendship, courage, trust, peace and forgiveness;
- celebrate the values of the school as a Christian community;
- contribute to the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of pupils;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others– a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
 - praise and reach out to God,
 - experience stillness and quiet,
 - respond to Christian language and symbolism,
 - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking of behalf of self and others and quiet reflection;
- help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Planning and Organisation

There is a daily act of worship in the school. Throughout the week, different people lead our Collective Worship, including members of staff, the head teacher, lay preachers, the vicar and people from the local community. Once a week, there is a Key Stage Collective Worship where the week theme is investigated at an age appropriate level. Children are also involved in the delivery of Collective Worship and lead elements of worship as well as taking responsibility for setting up for hall for Worship.

Sutton Benger School uses 'Values for Life' as a framework for Collective Worship, supplemented by 'Roots & Fruits', which encourages our pupils to explore, reflect upon and respond to our Christian values. We also observe the cycle of the Church's year and incorporate this into our planning. The Bible is used as a source book for inspiration and learning alongside other resources, and Christian symbolism is also used in worship. Six times a year, the school has special services in the church (e.g. Welcome Service, Remembrance Service, Easter Service). In Collective Worship we ensure that we:

- identify prayers and hymns which support our worship;
- learning traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages;
- providing opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship;
- have a range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out by the head teacher, the Collective Worship leader and pupils. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- observing children's level of interest, response and reflection;
- conducting observations of collective worship and evaluating the children's responses and reflection;
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and visitors;
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school;

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above is analysed in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of our Collective Worship. Formal evaluation of Collective Worship will take place at least annually.

The right of withdrawal

By law, parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship if they so wish and alternative arrangements will be made, but as Collective Worship is so central to the life and identity of the school we would ask parents to discuss with the head teacher any reasons they might have for doing so. If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship, alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will be in any way exempt from the Christian ethos of the school that underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made aware of this when they enrol their children.

Date Adopted by FGB	Summary of changes made
December 2018	K Baldwin
April 2019	Explicit references to the school vision & CofE vision added.
December 2019	Review Policy