



Beckley Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

October 2019

Statutory Obligation and Definition

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that a daily act of collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', times of collective worship at Beckley reflect the traditions and festivals of the Christian church and the teachings of Jesus. However, assemblies are always conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faith and beliefs of all members of the school. At times elements from other faiths will be used. Worship is understood to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence for God.

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Beckley Primary School are:

- To promote an understanding of worship
- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes

Timetable for Collective Worship

The following is the timetable for Collective Worship at Beckley Church of England Primary:

Day	Worship Leader	Type of Worship
Monday	Mr Szortowski	Linked to the monthly Christian Value in focus
Tuesday	Mr Houston	Linked to the monthly Christian Value in focus
Wednesday	Teachers	Class-led worship / external visitors
Thursday	Vicar/OTB	Clergy led Biblical material / Open the Book story
Friday	Mr Szortowski	Whole school – Sharing and Celebration

Christian Values

The following is a list of Christian Values that the school focuses on for a term at a time. These Values are referred to during Collective Worship and at other appropriate times during the day. The monthly Value is displayed in large letters in the School Hall and is represented in each classroom. They can also be seen on our regular newsletters to parents which can be found on the school's website.

Term	2019 – 2020	2020 – 2021
Autumn	Responsibility	Peace
Spring	Respect	Honesty
Summer	Courage	Kindness

Skills Development

Throughout the school the development of the following skills are encouraged which contribute to reflective thinking about our Christian values:

- displaying helpful politeness and good manners to all at school including visitors
- speaking quietly and politely to others
- listening carefully and thinking about what others are saying
- reflection, empathy and tolerance
- using imagination and being able to express feelings constructively
- articulating thoughts clearly in order to enhance communication skills
- walking quietly about the school building
- developing positive attitudes to work and play

FORMAT

- Children will enter quietly, with their teacher, to music.
- A chosen theme is developed through questioning, stories, artefacts or a talk by a visiting speaker. Children are actively involved whenever possible.
- A hymn is sung
- There is a moment of reflection.
- There is a short prayer related to the theme followed by the school prayer.

THEMES

- Themes are chosen according to our monthly values, the time of year and corresponding events in the religious calendar, e.g. Easter, Christmas, Harvest, Saints Days, etc.
- Religious events of other Faiths are included to foster a feeling of responsibility and belonging to the world, e.g. Divali, Hannukah.

- At other times themes are chosen according to the immediate needs of the school e.g. if there has been a spate of bullying in the school then an appropriate assembly should be planned.
- Class assembly themes may be more directly related to topic work or RE.

The Act of Worship is a reflection of life in this school – the atmosphere it seeks to develop, the caring for others and the consideration for their beliefs. It should be a spiritual occasion.

THE SCHOOL PRAYER

The School Prayer underpins the values and ethos of our whole school community i.e. peaceful reflection, love for all and a sense of belonging. All classes learn the prayer and periodically reflect on its impact on their attitudes, their learning and the whole school.

*This is our school
 Let peace dwell here
 Let the room be full of contentment
 Let love be here
 Love of one another
 Love of mankind
 And love of God
 Let us remember
 That as many hands build a house
 So many hearts make a school*

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.