

# Betley CE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
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<b>Next review due by:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2026
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<b>Completed by:</b>	Mrs Sam Ray
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<b>Link Governor:</b>	Rev Tim Watson
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## **Statement of intent**

At Betley CE Primary School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing 20 minutes of collective worship a day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

## **Our Vision**

At Betley, we will provide a loving, trusting and engaging environment rooted in wisdom, respect and love, where everyone is encouraged to flourish and fully achieve their God-given potential. We want all members of our school community to thrive and be a light in our world. (Rooted in Matthew 5:14-16 – City on a Hill)

## **Our Equality Statement**

At Betley CE Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life.

We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an environment which champions respect for all.

At Betley CE Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- RE Policy
- Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy

## 2. Definition of collective worship

For the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

To take part in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

## 3. Aims of collective worship

We aim that the collective worship at Betley CE Primary School reflects the Christian foundation of the school and:

- teaches us that we can be inspired to be 'lights': "We shine like bright stars in the sky." – Philippians 2:15
- enables and equips us to be 'givers of light' to others, living our values and vision in everyday life
- gives opportunities for us to gather together as a school family ("For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" Matthew 18:20)
- provides an occasion to praise and glorify God
- cultivates respect of others, as individuals, made in the image of God
- develops an appreciation of every individual's worth and value to God and their community
- promotes the Christian values of the school
- fosters feelings of awe and wonder
- enriches the spiritual awareness of each individual
- equips children with an appropriate 'worship and prayer vocabulary'
- enables children to become familiar with Anglican traditions, including those reflected at our partner church, St Margaret's Church, Betley.
- provides opportunities to observe and celebrate major and some minor Christian festivals and periods
- gives opportunities for children to meet people from the local church community
- offers opportunities to bring prayer to God and Jesus, for a variety of reason and for a range of people (including praising, asking, thanking and saying sorry - PATS)

- celebrates each individual's God-given talents, gifts and achievements
- will be invitational, inclusive and inspiring

#### **4. Organisation and planning**

The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 6 of this policy.

Worship will broadly be of a Christian character.

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing board.

The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily in the school hall and will follow the following structure:

**Monday** - Christian value theme

Worship planned by a teacher and led by pupils from the 'Worship Whizz Kids' team. Introduce the weekly bible verse and add to display. Is it New or Old Testament?

**Tuesday** - Values linked to the Bible

An engaging gathering led by our School Vicar or class teacher with a focus on a biblical theme as a source for inspiration and learning. Once every half-term the children also go outside to Worship in the Wild.

**Wednesday** – Singing. Children meet to worship through song

**Thursday** –Linked to British Values with a focus on a Bible Story

**Friday** - Celebration Worship

Children are chosen to share good work that has been achieved during the week. We celebrate and thank God for our gifts and talents. We also celebrate the work that children have completed at home connected to the Christian Value.

**Throughout the year**

Each class in the school take it in turn to plan and lead worship for the whole school parents are invited to these Worships and a recording is shared on the website.

Special acts of worship to celebrate the liturgical year are held in Betley Church. We focus on Harvest, Advent, Easter and our Patronal festival of Betley.

Classes lead the reading and prayers on these occasions. Parents and our school community are invited to these church services.

Each Worship held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing board and will have the following structure:

**Welcome (Candles)**

3 candles

Music

Say Motto

**Learning (Window)**

Main body of Worship

**Reflecting (Mirror)**

A searching question

**Responding (Door)**

Going ahead and changing something

Celebration Song/hymn

Finish with Lord's Prayer

Blow out candles

Music

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

## **5. Implementation**

The school will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama, and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for Teaching Assistants to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

## **6. Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

## **7. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.