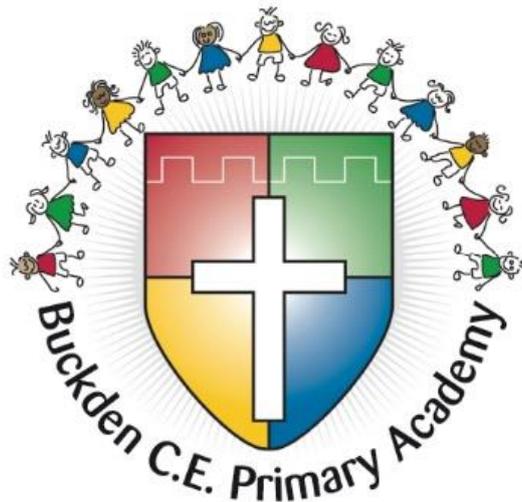


In the eyes of God, every child matters, every moment of every day



Buckden CE Primary Academy



Collective Worship Policy

Approved on:	March 2023
Next review date:	March 2026

Policy Statement

At Buckden School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Vision:

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Vision

Buckden CE Primary
Collective Worship Policy

Every child is loved by God and is educated for wisdom, aspiration and global citizenship, to thrive in our community through a culture of dignity and respect. Their gifts, talents and wellness are cultivated with knowledge and skills to live life purposefully in all its fullness. In faith we 'act' 'For nothing will be impossible with God'. Luke 1:37

Christian Values

Through our vision and linking through to our school curriculum we have a particular focus on the Christian values of Agape, Courage and Thankfulness, 'In faith we act' 'For nothing will be impossible with God'. Luke 1:37.

In addition we identify with the values of Justice, Compassion, Forgiveness, Peace, Koinonia, Service and Hope through our curriculum. These values are taken from the Collective Worship 10 Values Document as published by Ely Cathedral and are embodied in in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35 "...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

British Values.

Promoting British values

We agree with the Department for Education's five part definition of British Values:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

We believe it is incredibly important that these British Values permeate through every school in the country. At Buckden CE Primary Academy you will encounter these values throughout our everyday school life. We believe that our Christian identity plays an important role in upholding British Values within our school community. Our values are underpinned in our school creed which correlates with our British Values.

We combine Christian teaching and British Values in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as members of Buckden School and as young members of our community. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday** Whole school Collective Worship is led by our Parish Priest, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Head of Collective Worship. Our termly and yearly themes are introduced and explored. A suitable liturgical beginning and ending to worship is used. Examples are: The Lord be with you [response], And also with you. And at the end: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord [response], in the name of Christ, Amen. There is an opportunity for prayer and reflection and an appropriate worship song is sung. Prayers over the course of the term will include thankfulness for God's creation, and our care of it; the church; the world, peace, equality, justice, that basic needs are met; that we love God and neighbour; for our local community as well as people further afield, leaders - including parliament - and the royal family. Once a term (at least) we walk to St Mary's Church and have our Collective Worship there.
- Tuesday** Key Stage worship. We have two assemblies – one for EYFS/KS1 and the other for KS2. The Monday theme is continued, but content is differentiated appropriately. Class teachers and visiting clergy lead these assemblies on a rota basis. Children demonstrating Buckden School Values (Determination, Friendship, Respect, Excellence, Equality and Inspiration) and achievements outside of School are also celebrated within the rota.
- Wednesday** Class Collective Worship led by the Class teachers and the class collective worship representatives. This can link to the Monday assembly or will have a focus around a value or specific event in the calendar. Classes can continue to explore the themes introduced in a differentiated setting
- Thursday** Whole school Choral Worship, led by the two Class teachers. Seasonally appropriate worship songs are learned and practiced
- Friday** On Fridays we have whole school Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher. We celebrate the achievements of each class every week. Housepoint totals are announced and Attendance Awards. The Year 6 House Captains lead these. A house captain will read Our Vision and another will read our school prayer linked to Agape, Courage and Thankfulness.

Our School Prayer

Dear God

*Be with us today and every day, helping us to be good examples of your love (**agape**), by showing kindness to all. Fill our hearts with joy and our minds with learning, so we can flourish.*

*Give us the **courage** to make a positive difference in our homes, our school and the wider community.*

*Let us be **thankful** for the amazing world you have given us and help us to protect it for future generations.*

Amen

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship such as Open the Book, Actious and GENR8.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for **Monday's** collective worship reflect our Values focus for that term, the Church calendar (As outlined and directed by Ely Cathedral Collective Worship for Schools), our school ethos and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall welcomed by members of the Collective Worship Team accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The title of this piece of music is displayed for the children to see throughout the week and could come from a variety of cultures.

On the drawer unit that houses collective worship resources (lectern frontals and so on) candles are lit either side of the cross, to indicate the beginning of worship. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer from the minister or teacher performing the worship and additional prayers written by a rotation of classes and read by the collective worship team. The minister will then say a blessing and the candles are then blown out before any messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including Choral Worship. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the Monday whole school, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class and a prayer is said at the end of the school day.

Each class has a Prayer Tree, within their classroom as part of their Collective Worship area. Children are encouraged to write short prayers or reflections and attach them onto the tree. Sometimes these are related to the Value for the term, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer. Children who have been observed demonstrating our Values have their name added to the tree.

There are two prayer stops that have a changing display, which is done every few weeks by a member of Actious. Children are encouraged to write prayers and these are then collected and contribute to the Collective Worship.

We have a Tranquil Garden where a cross is displayed and children and staff can use this space to reflect or pray. We also have the Peace Pod in the school building that allows staff a place to go if they need a little quiet space to reflect or pray. In this space is a piece of art work that has a bible verse incorporated.

British Value – Tolerance.

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept by each Collective Worship pair, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Different Collective Worship representatives' record each Collective Worship. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and visitors

As part of the curriculum, Buckden School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Mary's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

In line with the Surrey Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education's three-year development plan, the role of link governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The Collective Worship Coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of worship and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of worship. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.