

Collective Worship Protocol

‘With God, all things are possible’

Prepared by: RE Lead, Collective Worship Lead, Local Governing Body and School Chaplain

This protocol should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

The Church of England Vision for Education

Spirituality at Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy (available on our website)

Statement of intent

As a Church of England School, Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy has a duty to provide a daily act of Christian collective worship.

We believe this is a hugely important part of the day, as collective worship offers a uniquely special time where a school can nourish a sense of community and explore its vision and shared values. It also provides an opportunity to reflect, provides a focus for personal development and where everyone's contributions are celebrated.

Collective worship at Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy is guided by ‘Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring’ guidance.

‘Church of England schools are committed to offering high quality collective worship. They are places that recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school’s Christian vision.’

‘Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive Invitational Inspiring’

It will reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

This daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and members of the governing body.

Our Shared Values

We share a common set of Christian values that underpin all that we do in our work at Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy. These values are visited regularly through our worship themes and are celebrated on weekly basis through our roll of honour. We believe our focus on Christian values has not only a powerful effect on the quality of relationships

throughout our school, but provides a wealth of naturally occurring opportunities to explore the person and teachings of Jesus Christ outside of and during collective worship itself. The following core values have been chosen:

- Koinonia/Community
- Hope
- Forgiveness
- Endurance
- Friendship

Purpose of worship

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual (more information on spirituality can be found on our website), moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes.

How would we describe worship at Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy?

- Introducing children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith and reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.

How is worship organised at Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy?

Collective worship at Benedict Biscop is distinctively Christian and takes place daily. Our worship is inclusive – it is for all pupils and staff and is invitational in nature –

pupils can actively involve themselves in as much or as little as they feel. All staff are invited to attend daily worship.

At Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy, we follow a thematic approach to collective worship across a two year cycle that is driven by our school vision ‘With God, all things are possible’ and following the church year and liturgical themes.

Worship is carefully planned to engage a range of different styles and actively promote spiritual development. Planning is provided to support staff to deliver high quality collective worship that aims to be:

- inspirational and transformational
- include a range of creative opportunities, e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama
- develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school

We recommend that each act of worship follows the clear sequence of:

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|-------------------|---|
| 1. Gather | Music is played at the start of worship as a call to worship. Children enter the hall in silence and use this time as a moment of quiet reflection. A candle is lit and a liturgical greeting shared to welcome everyone. The theme of worship is introduced at this time. |
| 2. Engage | A key message is shared. This may be through a variety of different mediums i.e. drama, visual images, poetry, music, Bible stories or other texts. |
| 3. Respond | Pupils and staff are encouraged to consider how the stimulus has resonated with or challenged them. Sometimes using searching ‘I wonder’ questions, which are offered as a focus for reflection. Sometimes a moment of quiet reflection is given. |
| 4. Send | The final element of worship provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present in worship to respond and make a difference in the world, to then act or express this in some way in response; for moving on, making choices and doing something creative, active and purposeful in response. This is the completion of the worship and will be indicated by blowing out the candle, closing liturgy and by the playing of quiet music. |

In addition to opportunities to reflect as part of our worship, we also ensure pupils have the opportunity to reflect through Prayer Spaces led by our Light House Leaders group and Classroom Reflection Areas enable reflection opportunities to be bespoke to individual classes.

Planning has been supplemented with resources from the Diocese of Canterbury’s ‘A Fresh Approach to Collective Worship’ and the shared language from ‘Roots and Fruits’ in an aim to give children a range of experiences to develop their own spirituality and refine what it means for them. The lenses through which we view

spirituality is something we learn about (windows), something that resides within us (mirrors), on which we can answer a call to action (doors). Windows, Mirrors and Doors are taken from the work of Liz Mills (1997) and provide a useful way of articulating spirituality to all stakeholders in the school, including pupils.

| <u>WINDOWS</u> | <u>MIRRORS</u> | <u>DOORS</u> |
|---|---|---|
| “An opportunity to <u>LOOK OUT</u> at something new and learn from it” | “Opportunity to <u>LOOK IN</u> and reflect on what that means to us” | “An opportunity to <u>GO OUT</u> and play your part in making a difference” |
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To provide a variety of differing worshiping contexts, each day of the week is delivered slightly differently.

| Weekly Sequence | |
|------------------------|--|
| Monday | Introduction to the weekly theme Led by Headteacher School Hall |
| Tuesday | Class worship An opportunity for classes to delve deeper into the weekly theme on a more personal level Led by the class teacher Classrooms |
| Wednesday | Key Stage Worship Continuation of the weekly theme at a phased age appropriate level. Led by Phase Leaders School Hall |
| Thursday | Sing and Praise An opportunity to worship through music. Led by Deputy Head teacher and supported by the school’s Music teacher School Hall |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Friday | <p>Community worship</p> <p>An opportunity for the extended community to come and worship together.</p> <p>A reflection of learning across the week linked to the school vision.</p> <p>Celebration of achievements both in and beyond school.</p> <p>Led by the school chaplain, Headteacher and classes</p> |
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Worship takes place at an agreed time of the day, but may be taken at an alternative time or format i.e. on an educational visit.

In early Years, worship is usually in small groups, with the exception of one day, when all the phase worship together.

Worship in Early Years follows a simplified sequence to better suit the needs and ages of our youngest pupils and to prepare them for worship in Key Stage 1. Jack in the Box Big Bible Story Volumes 1 and 2 are used to support planning.

| Weekly Sequence | |
|------------------------|--|
| Monday | Welcome - where the theme is introduced. |
| Tuesday | Learn - this is a time for listening to and engaging with the story. |
| Wednesday | Reflect - this is a time for exploring what we have learnt through the story. |
| Thursday | Respond - this is a time when everyone thinks about how they will respond to their learning about the value and apply it in their own lives. |
| Friday | Sing and Praise |

Additional Opportunities to Worship

Our extended community are invited to participate in a termly Eucharist services at school led by our school chaplain and pupils from Year 5 or Year 6. Attendees are invited to receive communion or a blessing. Pupils in Year 6 are invited to Durham Leavers Service at the end of Year 6, worshipping alongside pupils from across the Diocese.

Right of Withdrawal

Collective worship is provided for all pupils, and is inclusive and broad minded. Parents do have the right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship: if you wish to do this, please make an appointment with the Headteacher.