

## Collective Worship Policy

### Bridgerule C of E (V.C.) Primary School / Black Torrington C of E (V.C.) Primary School

#### **Introduction**

This policy should be taken and used as part of Black Torrington and Bridgerule Church of England schools' overall strategy, and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as Church of England schools.

We believe that Collective Worship plays a key role in the life of our schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate our Christian principles and values and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. It is a shared activity which allows for a variety of responses, and provides opportunities for those of any religious faith, or none, to focus and reflect on stimuli that provoke thought and discussion. We are committed to respecting the diversity of the religious communities from which pupils come. We will also offer the opportunity to reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

#### **Legal Requirements**

Black Torrington and Bridgerule are V.C. Church of England Primary Schools. As such, worship will be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

#### **The aims of our schools**

<b>Black Torrington C of E Primary School</b>	<b>Bridgerule C of E Primary School</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop in children a love of learning.</li><li>• To make learning relevant, meaningful and fun in a safe, happy and healthy environment.</li><li>• To play an active role in the local and wider communities.</li><li>• To develop a mutual respect between pupils, staff, other adults and visitors to the school.</li><li>• To make children aware of Christian traditions and worship.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils at Bridgerule Church of England School will be offered a broad and balanced education in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.</li><li>• Pupil's self-confidence, esteem and independence will be nurtured through a supportive teaching and learning environment that enables each child to achieve their personal potential.</li><li>• Pupils will be encouraged to foster an attitude of mutual respect, care and understanding within their school environment.</li><li>• Pupils will be offered opportunities to develop their spiritual awareness, an appreciation of our Christian faith, and an insight into other religions and cultures.</li></ul>

## Aims of Collective Worship

- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of each individual as a child made in the image of God
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level, and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour.
- To give the children memorable and enjoyable experiences
- To enable children to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others, locally and globally.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these to support the search for meaning.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To provide a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To provide opportunities for self-expression and creativity in worship.

## Strategies for Implementation

- The schools have a joint Ethos committee which meets termly to discuss and develop Christian distinctiveness in our schools. Our Foundation Governor is a member of this committee.
- **Black Torrington - We follow the Diocesan programme of worship over a four year rolling programme.**
- **Bridgerule – We follow the Roots and Fruits 2 Year rolling program for worship.**
- Acts of worship will vary in style with as much interaction as possible. This varies from questions and answers to dramatized versions of Bible stories and children composing prayers.
- We hold regular acts of worship in our parish churches and Methodist chapels.
- Acts of worship are recorded on a weekly template and kept as part of the school's record of worship.
- Acts of worship are monitored termly and a report of this is delivered at the Ethos committee meeting.
- Local clergy and members of the church community regularly attend and lead acts of worship.
- Use is made, wherever possible, of visiting speakers to enrich and extend collective worship, for example members of charities and community groups. A member of staff will sit in on all acts of worship led by a visitor.

Please see attached sheet for details of implementation in the individual schools.

Signed (Chair of Ethos committee):

Signed (Headteacher):

Date:

Date of review:

### Strategies for implementation – Black Torrington C of E Primary School

- Worship takes place during the morning session.
- Worship will follow the same usual pattern each week:

Monday afternoon (Class 1 Teacher) – Theme / Fruits of the Spirit / school's own Christian values

Tuesday afternoon (Class 2 Teacher) – Hymn practice

Wednesday morning (Benefice team) – Diocesan theme

Thursday before lunch (Class 1 Teacher) – British values / Newsround (alternating weeks)

Friday morning (Class 2 Teacher) – Celebration assembly

- Worship for the main Christian festivals will take place at St Mary's church or Hope Methodist Chapel. This includes; harvest, Christmas, Easter and Ascension Day. The annual leavers' service also takes place in Church.
- Records of worship are kept in a folder in the hall during each term, being transferred to a central record at the end of the term.
- Friday acts of Celebration Assembly will provide an opportunity to award certificates and celebrate achievements. Children will be given regular opportunities to share their work as part of celebration assembly. All teaching staff will attend this assembly.
- Collective worship usually takes place in the hall. A focal point for collective worship is used during worship and is maintained by the Collective Worship Coordinator.
- A weekly hymn is chosen and sung daily as part of worship.

### Strategies for implementation – Bridgerule C of E Primary School

- Worship takes place at the end of the day.
- Worship will follow the same usual pattern each week:

Monday – Celebration assembly

Tuesday – Roots and Fruits Assembly

Wednesday – Hymn Practice

Thursday – Newsround assembly

Friday – PSHE assembly

- Worship for the main Christian festivals will take place at St Bridget's Church or Bridgerule Methodist Chapel. This includes; harvest, Christmas and Easter. The annual leavers' service also takes place in School and the children are given prizes from the church.
- A focal point for collective worship is evident in Class Three and the hall is maintained by the Collective Worship Coordinator.
- Mother Elizabeth, leads acts of worship once a month half term.
- A weekly hymn is chosen and sung daily as part of worship.