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Barnham CEVC Primary School

Collective Worship POLICY

Intent

Collective worship at Barnham is clearly based on the traditions of the Christian Church, however, it is also a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, providing an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.

Our school is committed to respect the religious communities, or non-religious backgrounds, from which pupils and staff come. We want our times of worship to be an oasis, a place of spiritual refreshment for all.

Barnham's acts of worship aim to:

- explore the Christian faith with children and staff, especially to celebrate the C of E's educational vision: Dignity, Community, Hope and Wisdom
- give an opportunity, for those who wish, to worship God, and, for those who don't, a clear opportunity to demonstrate respect for others
- discover and celebrate key moments of the Christian calendar, and to enjoy and celebrate special moments of the lives of our school communities
- help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them, developing a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships
- strengthen and support the school community and celebrate the Christian belief that each unique individual member is made in the image of God

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- provide regular time and opportunity for reflection, enabling children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern to the broader and more lasting concerns of life
- provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears, etc.

- develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs

- provide time to share with others the things they have been doing, their thoughts and ideas

- help children to think about Christian values and how these might be shared and put into practice by all in school

- give children experience of being active members of a caring community, who respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed etc.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, mixed-age family group or whole school and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Implementation

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school usually at 2:55pm which includes a combination of music, song, stories, shared experiences, role-play, prayer and reflection. For those who do not have a faith, we believe that this time of reflection is a pause in the day which benefits well-being, mental health and appreciation of our wonderful world and amazing lives.

The Headteacher and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, and local clergy or other representatives of local churches regularly conduct them as well.

Our Collective Worship are usually focused around a Christian value but we also take the themes from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship

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reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our rich, exciting, hands-on curriculum provides a wealth of opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder across the curriculum. More details of this can be read in our SMSC policy.

Our Collective Worship sessions reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in these by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and recognise children's achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, loved and their unique achievements are recognised. Barnham Church of England Primary is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children, staff, parents and Governors in many collective worships.

We invite parents to Collective Worship on occasions and we encourage them to attend; this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Parents and friends are further invited to our special Collective Worships such as Harvest, Easter, Carol Services, Leavers' assembly, some of which take place in St. Gregory's Church.

Our Collective Worship aims to offer spiritual refreshment for all.

Weekly Collective Worship plans usually include the following although the days these happen may be different each week:

Day 1	Values themed led by SLT
Day 2	In-Class Worship using resources such as Picture News
Day 3	Musical Worship and an opportunity to learn new songs
Day 4	Bible Stories usually led by local clergy and visitors from local churches
Day 5	Celebration Worship led by SLT

There will be other special Collective Worship sessions planned throughout each term. These are carefully planned and link to our distinctive Christian ethos and our school values, more information can be seen below:

Inspire Collective Worship Sessions	Cherish Collective Worship Sessions	Believe Collective Worship Sessions
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Courageous Advocacy (Change Agents Focused)	Celebration Assemblies (Sharing)	Bible Stories
Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Days	Reflective Collective Worships (Silent)	Visitors from local churches
Family Worship (Circle Time)	Monthly Safeguarding Focus	
Singing Assemblies	Sustainability/ Planet Protector Focused	

Staff in Collective Worship

All staff members will be invited and encouraged to attend Collective Worship daily. We hope that all will be positive role models during this time and also use the opportunity to have a moment of calm refreshment and reflection in the busy school day. We want our worship to be for the whole school community.

Children as leaders

The children are responsible for creating our sacred space and will set the hall up for worship including getting the worship table ready, lighting candles and getting any technology needed organised.

Some children will welcome the children as they enter by holding the door open and greeting each other with a smile.

The Collective Worship Crew, usually made up of children from Year 6 will open and close each Collective Worship using a set greeting and response and dismissal and response.

Children will also be invited to lead prayers and reflection times at various opportunities. We will encourage them to use the "TSP" prayer approach – Thank you, Sorry, Please OR they may choose to read a prayer from the school prayer book (written by children) OR lead the school in the school prayer.

Values

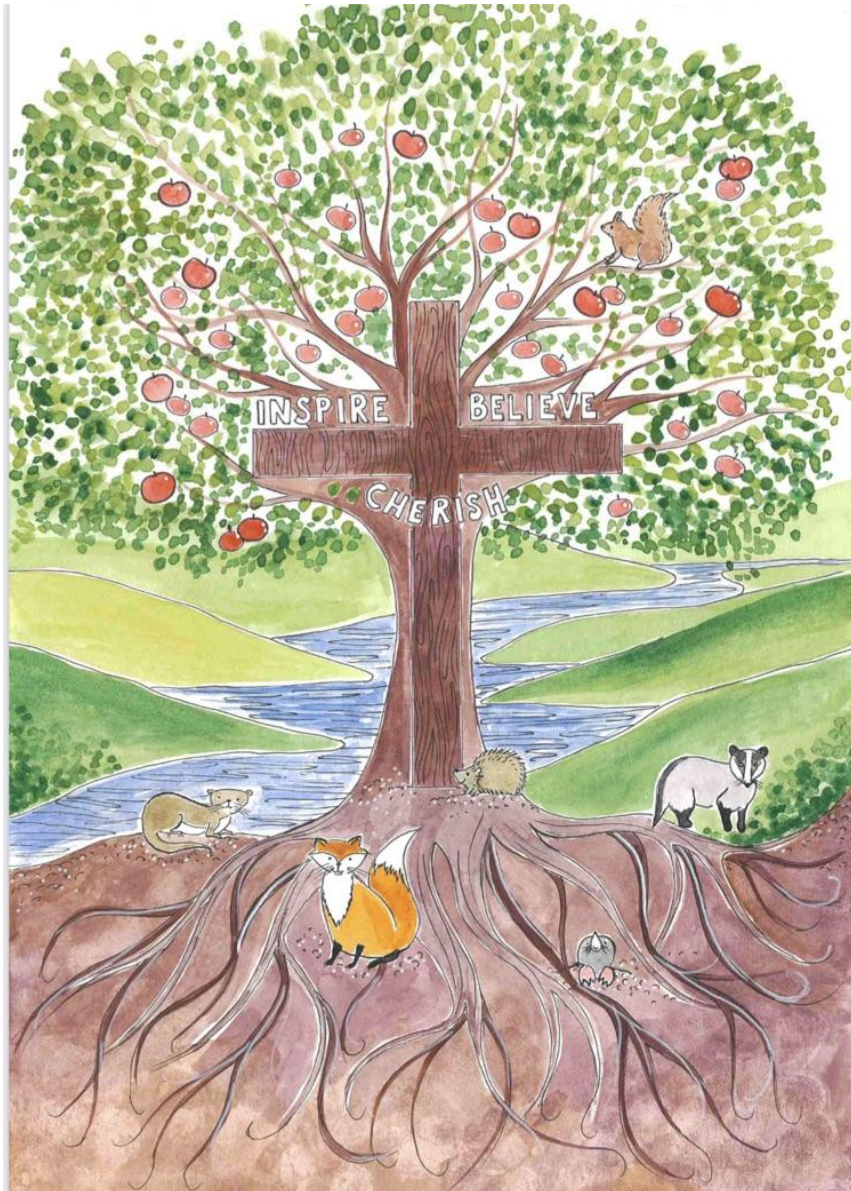
We believe passionately that our children need to be informed about all Christian values in order to be well-rounded children that make a difference in the world that we live. We want them to be like strong trees that is referred to in the bible in the book of Jeremiah Chapter 17: 7-8:

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit."

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We see God at the centre of our school (the cross), we picture the tree as having 3 branches which make up our ethos 'inspire, cherish, believe' and we refer to our Christian values as fruits.

This image illustrates that inspired by the bible verse above, the animals also are the names of our classes:



We ask all stakeholders each year the values that they think we are good at as a school and the values that we potentially need to work on a little bit more. These then formulate the values that we will focus on each half term. This doesn't mean that other values will not be covered as opportunities arise.

Below is an example of how this is planned out over the year but this will change year on year based on obtaining the views of all stakeholders usually done through a themed 'Vision & Values Week'.

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	INSPIRE	CHERISH	BELIEVE	INSPIRE	CHERISH	BELIEVE
	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Our Aims (Branches)	Inspire everyone with a lifelong love of learning and a yearning to fulfil their potential,	Cherish everyone as one who is precious to God, a part of His loving family here in school	Believe in everyone, encouraging them in their own strengths and talents	Inspire everyone with a lifelong love of learning and a yearning to fulfil their potential,	Cherish everyone as one who is precious to God, a part of His loving family here in school	Believe in everyone, encouraging them in their own strengths and talents
Our Values (Fruits)	FOCUS VALUE: Responsibility OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Service Wisdom Faithfulness Love	FOCUS VALUE: Thankfulness OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Joy Contentment Humility Awe and Wonder	FOCUS VALUE: Stewardship OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Respect Justice Care	FOCUS VALUE: Compassion OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Love Kindness Mercy Empathy Forgiveness	FOCUS VALUE: Hope OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Faith Trust Perseverance Resilience	FOCUS VALUE: Courage OTHERS TO CONSIDER: Faith Trust Integrity

Each Christian Value will have a bible verse that is linked to it in order to help the school community to understand the Christian context of this value.

Barnham's Big Questions

In order to guide the children's thinking around our focus value/ fruit. Some big thought-provoking questions will be displayed in our sacred space and as the children enter Collective Worship and they will be given space to think and reflect on these. These may also be used in reflective areas around the school and for discussion points in family worship times.

Here are some example questions around the value of responsibility:

- What does it mean to take responsibility for your actions?
- Why is responsibility important in families, schools, and communities?
- Does being responsible always mean doing something difficult or unpleasant?
- How does it feel when you act responsibly and others can trust you? How does it feel when someone lets you down by not being responsible?
- Who do you know that shows responsibility in the way they care for others or complete their duties?
- Can responsibility sometimes mean admitting when you are wrong? Why might this be hard?
- What responsibilities do children have? What responsibilities do adults have?
- How can taking responsibility help people work together peacefully?
- Can you think of a story from the Bible where Jesus showed or taught about responsibility? What responsibilities do Christians believe they have towards God, other people, and the world?

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- What responsibilities do people have to care for the environment and the wider world?
- Have you ever worked together with others to take responsibility for helping someone or improving something in your community?
- Is responsibility only about following rules, or is it also about making good choices when nobody is watching?

The place of Music in worship

Songs will be values themed and children may sing as they enter Collective Worship and as they exit. We may also sing our new school song.

Sometimes music will be used to set the scene for Collective Worship too and we will encourage children to appreciate a wide-range of music.

Prayer & Reflection Time

Every Collective Worship will have a prayer & reflection time. Children will be invited to use this time to think or pray. These times will take many different forms including time for silence.

Right of withdrawal

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

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Impact

Our hope is that Collective Worship is an oasis for all who attend Barnham CEVC Primary School. A time of peace, calm and refreshment amidst every busy day.

Our hope is to raise up a generation of life-long learners that will take what they learn from Collective Worship and demonstrate these values throughout their lives being the best that they can be for themselves, each other and God's world. We want them to leave Barnham School inspired with a lifelong love of learning and a yearning to fulfil their potential. We want them to believe in everyone and encourage all to be the best

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that they can be. We want them to feel cherished as part of God's family at Barnham School but also beyond.

Policy Review

Review Term:	Every 3 years or earlier as changes happen
Led member of staff responsible for review:	Rachel Bacon
Lead governor responsible for review: (Full GB to approve)	Joanne McGuigan
Date adopted:	
Dates policy reviewed	May 2026
Dates policy amended in between reviews	