



COMPASSION, ACCEPTANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, FORGIVENESS, TRUST

This policy is underpinned by our Mission Statement and the school's Christian Values

We aim to work as an encouraging and effective team within a Christian caring environment, founded on the love of God and the love of our fellow human beings.

We aim to achieve a standard of excellence appropriate to each individual enriching, encouraging and equipping each child for their future education.

God teaches us to forgive and always accept forgiveness

We receive the Christian way of life as a gift from God

We believe and trust in God who loves each one of us

We are all unique children of God

Whatever you wish that men would do to you do to them

We are all equally precious and loved by God

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a Church school with a distinctly Christian ethos our aim at Burham CE Primary School is that all our children are valued; will show respect, spiritual awareness, tolerance and empathy whilst becoming well organized, confident, self-motivated, outward looking and socially aware. Our Collective Worship Policy plays an important part in helping children achieve this.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To understand the Bible and its teachings
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response

- To develop in children a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To give children experience of how to worship.

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 and participating in an act of worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in worship.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship for Church schools should be 'wholly Christian and Denominational', we base our acts of worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.
- We conduct our acts of worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- Whilst the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold Christian Acts of Worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that worship time is a period of reflection and also of joy. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, lit candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- The Headteacher normally conducts the act of worship. In her absence other members of staff will take the lead. Also local clergy and other visitors lead the act of worship regularly.
- We take the themes for our worship from the plans supplied by the Diocese of Rochester which follow a 3-year rolling plan.
- Our Celebration Worship includes time to reflect on the achievements and learning of our children. During reflective worship we encourage the children to participate by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship time offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all our children are valued and all achievements are recognized.
- Pupils are given the opportunity to plan and lead our worship.
- We invite parents to join us in our worship time regularly as and when appropriate.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Inclusion

- All our children matter and they are given every opportunity to achieve their best. We achieve this by good planning that takes into account children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, different ethnic groups and diverse linguistic backgrounds
- We provide resources that reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping.

Right of Withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend our worship time. 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 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring & Reviewing

- It is the role of the governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. This will be done through a monitoring pair nominated by the governors. The monitoring pair will then liaise with the Headteacher and Collective Worship Coordinator before reporting back to the governors.

This policy will be updated with new guidance before the yearly review if necessary.

Policy amended:

July 2009

Policy updated:

October 2010

Revised September 2011

Reviewed November 2012

Reviewed January 2014

Reviewed April 2015

Updated January 2017