



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

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| Date of last review:                                 | October 2015                       |
| Date approved by Governing Body:                     | 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2015      |
| Date of next review:                                 | Autumn 2018                        |
| Committee responsible for implementation and review: | Standards, Achievement & Inclusion |

**Policy Statement**

At the Federation of Bursledon Church of England Infant and Bursledon Junior Schools, the daily act of collective worship is regarded as an integral and important aspect of school life. Through this, and the general ethos of the federation, we seek to promote our federation values:

*Love*

*“Let us love one another, for love comes from God” 1 John 4, verse 7*

*Respect*

*“So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you” Matthew 7 verse 12*

*Aspire*

*Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life – life in all its fullness” John 10 verse 10*

Both schools have a long and well established close relationship with the parish church. This includes weekly acts of worship in both schools led by the church team, termly services for both schools held at either St. Leonard’s or St. Paul’s Church, classroom support for religious education and sharing in the joys and sorrows of federation life.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of the federation. It is an inclusive act which encourages reflection in all present, of all faiths and none, rooted in the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in; God, the source of all being and life; Jesus who reveals God’s love by his life, death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Worship is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes our failures) together. It is based on Christian values and, as such, the contributions of staff, pupils, members of the church team and other visitors are highly valued. We actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection. We always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the infant school within the federation and the federation’s care for all members of its learning community.

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship of the Bursledon Federation and was prepared by foundation governors and the federation’s senior leadership team using guidelines from the Dioceses of Portsmouth and Winchester and the Dioceses of Chester and Salisbury.

**Aims**

Through collective worship in the federation we aim to:

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chair of Governors

- promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative
- provide an experience of worship that will allow participants to respond to the presence, power, peace and love of God
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they are able to encounter the spiritual dimension of life
- enable the federation community to develop an understanding of the life of Christ and the teachings of the Bible
- provide an opportunity, through worship, to develop an understanding of a Christian relationship with God
- introduce and develop the children's understanding of Christian language and symbolism and the celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- provide members of the federation community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These may include praise, seeking forgiveness, thanking, asking on behalf of self or others or quiet reflection and silence
- strengthen and support the federation community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values which underpin the values of the federation
- celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the federation community, recognising the God given uniqueness of each individual
- encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us
- provide opportunities for spiritual, social, moral and cultural development (see also SMSC policy)
- develop an appreciation and understanding that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate and foster respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- continue to develop a sense of community within the federation, the locality (including the local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions
- foster a concern for the needs of others within the federation and the wider world
- foster an appreciation of the created world and our responsibility for it
- provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- create displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions
- always invite, never coerce, remembering that children and adults will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to respond and participate at their own level

### **Legal framework**

In meeting the requirements of the Education Act 1988, and in line with the Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Board of Education policy on collective worship, the federation ensures that collective worship is open and accessible to all pupils and staff.

The federation recognises that there is a difference between acts of collective worship and the assembly of pupils. On some occasions assembly may precede or follow an act of collective worship. When this happens, the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in a suitable way, such as the lighting of a candle, reflecting an image on a screen or moments of silence and reflection.

### **Inclusion and right of withdrawal**

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children. Every effort is made by the federation to involve all children unless they are withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law. Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship. The federation expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the executive headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The federation will provide suitable supervision for children withdrawn from collective worship, but it should be noted that no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the executive headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the executive headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship in the Bursledon Federation.

## **Organisation and responsibility**

Although the executive headteacher maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship, s/he may delegate the organisation and management of collective worship to another member of staff in each school within the federation. A termly overview is planned with a range of foci through the year covering the cycle of Christian festivals, sharing the views of those of other faiths and covering the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural ethos within the schools.

## **Implementation**

Collective worship will be led by:

- the executive headteacher or head of school at least once a week in each school within the federation
- a member of the church team on another day once a week, based on the federation's planned theme in accordance with the agreed timetable
- staff and/or children once a week
- the executive headteacher or head of school will also lead the weekly Celebration
- Come and Praise will develop the children's repertoire of Christian worship songs and give the children the opportunity to reflect on God's love for them through music. It will be led by a foundation governor for Early Years and key stage 1 and the music co-ordinator for key stage 2

## **Planning, recording, monitoring and evaluation**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing, monitoring and evaluation. The content and methodology of collective worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each person planning collective worship is asked to plan his/her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity.

While the planned overview of weekly foci will be used as themes for collective worship, it is recognised that, on occasions, the executive headteacher may feel that there is a need to respond to local or national events.

## **Monitoring**

Useful strategies for collecting evidence of monitoring collective worship include

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the effect of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the federation
- holding regular discussions with colleagues, including the church team

Governors seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be part of the evaluation process. The federation council members regularly seek the views of their classmates and report these findings to the federation council. A governor will assist the federation council in making a report or a presentation to governors.

## **Evaluation**

The information gathered via the strategies used will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of collective worship. The executive headteacher, heads of school and foundation governors, including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators.

## **Policy review**

Foundation governors will always be involved when this policy is reviewed.