Much Birch C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



'We will flourish and reach our God given potential'

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. John 15:5

All members of our whole school community are able to realise their God-given potential, enabling them to become equal, caring and active citizens whilst upholding true Christian values. We treat others, as we would like to be treated, with dignity and respect. Everyone is encouraged to flourish with hope and high aspirations

Updated: 2 yearly

Review date: September 2026

Head teacher Mrs B Davies

Chair of Governors Rev. Mark Johnson

INTRODUCTION

Much Birch Church of England V.C. Primary School regards the daily act of collective worship as central to its foundation status as a church school. It is an integral and important part of school life.

Through collective worship and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our wish for our pupils which is for them to flourish and reach their God given potential.

Our vision builds on this:

All members of our whole school community are able to realise their God-given potential, enabling them to become equal, caring and active citizens whilst upholding true Christian values. We treat others, as we would like to be treated, with dignity and respect. Everyone is encouraged to flourish with hope and high aspirations

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. Collective worship provides an opportunity for all staff and pupils to reflect and pray, sing, share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

We remind the children and each other of the need to live well together and that wisdom, respect, love, hope and aspiration is achieved with mutual love and support and to trust our inner ***moral compass*** (that is our conscience that helps to guide us when an adult is not present- based on ***What Would Jesus Do***?

Collective Worship aims to…

- Foster feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness, wonder and joy.
- To develop the life skills of love, wisdom, respect, hope and aspire to live well together and 'flourish' and grow in our community.
- Help children discover their place in the world and equip them with the life skills to contemplate the 'bigger' ethical questions in life.
- Provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour and praise.
- Establish, explore and reinforce the Christian values of Much Birch School.
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.
- Heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide an opportunity to reflect upon these whilst supporting the search for meaning.
- Enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- Celebrate gifts, talents and achievements and enjoy celebrations.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others and to provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer.

- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly Much Birch church.
- Encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.

The following principles are considered when arranging acts of collective worship:

1. Collective worship should aim to provide an opportunity for staff, pupils and visitors to worship God and develop their sense and understanding of spirituality.
2. Acts of collective worship should be at a time of day set aside for a unique occasion which celebrates the beliefs and backgrounds of individual members.
3. An act of collective worship should acknowledge and value the response of each pupil. It should be a time to share thoughts and ideas.
4. Acts of worship should provide opportunities for pupils to express feelings of delight, joy, sorrow and to rejoice in the good.
5. An act of worship should be designed to encourage reflection.
6. An act of worship should be a daily reinforcement of the feeling of community - one body of people with different views valuing each other as individuals. An opportunity to understand that we are al different.
7. An act of worship is an interactive process between the child, worship leader and that which we call God.
8. Some acts of worship should make the children look beyond the immediate environment of the school and reinforce their place in the wider community and the world we live in.
9. Acts of worship should introduce pupils to various aspects of religious worship in an open and honest atmosphere (e.g. poetry, drama, music, art).
10. Acts of worship should encourage pupils to have confidence in their own traditions and to value the traditions of others.
11. Collective worship is something that is not bound by the constraints of time and place: the effects of worship permeate through the life of the school.

Anglican Faith and Practice

We seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England.

- We use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.
- We use some aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship.
- We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection.
- We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebration of the major Christian festivals.
- We provide a focal point for the act of worship - candles, cross, a candle, a picture, flowers and the liturgical colour is evident on the worship table.
- A wide variety of resources are used to encourage discussion and reflection: music, movement, poetry, pictures, videos, photographs, stories, children's work, role play, drama, natural objects, artefacts, candles and incense.
- We use greetings, prayer and blessings from the Church of England website and its link to Worship Workshop.
- We foster links with Much Birch church, involving the Reverend Mark Johnson in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and worship in school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We aim to provide a variety of worship experience with the assistance of our Worship Council. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday – Mrs Ricketts delivers Collective Worship to the whole school
Tuesday – Hymns & Praise led by Mrs White & Mrs Broomfield
Wednesday – Mrs Davies / Reverend Mark delivers Collective Worship to the whole school
Thursday – Mrs Ricketts delivers Collective Worship to the whole school
Friday – Key Stage Celebration services where all staff are invited to attend.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into school to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. Governors are also welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Worship commences with the children entering the hall accompanied by music to foster a sense of inner calm. The music chosen reflects a wide variety of cultures.

The interactive candle flickers on screen and this signifies that the act of Collective Worship has begun.

Children, through the organisation of the Worship Council, are often invited to lead worship through reading, drama, selecting and leading prayers.

At the end of Collective Worship we pray (school and Lord's prayer) and this signifies the end of worship. Notices can then be given out.

Planning, Recording and Evaluating Collective Worship

Acts of Collective Worship at Much Birch C of E Primary School are planned around the rolling programme of Christian Values, church festivals, key dates, current events or key events in the life of the children and school. We also try to make links, wherever possible, with themes taught as part of the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education and Understanding Christianity- adopted February 2020.

A record is kept of all acts of worship using the termly planning and saving of PowerPoints. This record details the theme / content, prayer, reflection, music and leader for each act of collective worship. Staff and pupils evaluate the effectiveness of collective worship.

Each class leads a celebration (Harvest, Christmas, Easter) to which parents, Reverend Mark and Governors are invited. These celebrate work that is happening in school. Visitors are encouraged to stay after the service to talk to the children and staff – usually over tea and cake.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used, including the Lord's Prayer, school prayer, prayers written by the children and prayers from the Church of England website.

Grace is led by the children or staff at the beginning of lunch time in their classrooms.

Each class ends the school day with a time of reflection. A class prayer is also led by the teacher or the children.

Each class has a reflection area where the children can reflect and write a prayer

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. Children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the culture of others.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take into account different learning styles and aim to present materials using multi—sensory approaches.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Voluntary Controlled school rests with the Governors in consultation with the Head teacher. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for "the purpose of securing, as far as practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with provisions of any trust deed relating thereto." The Head teacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.