



Benhall St Mary's C of E Primary School

Be the best you can be.

Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'- Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

2025-2027

School's Christian Vision

At Benhall, we want to inspire and empower pupils to unlock their fullest potential, fostering academic, social and personal growth. Our intent is clear; Be the best you can be. This powerful statement embodies our commitment to having high aspirations for the pupils of Benhall St Mary. This was inspired by the verse, "Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Our ethos is underpinned, by our core values: Kindness, Respect, Friendship, Resilience and Forgiveness

Collective Worship Policy

At Benhall, we believe that Collective worship plays a vital role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, and active day for our children. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that our children feel valued and special. Collective Worship contributes to the working out of our Ethos, and the Christian Vision of the school which was written by the whole school family, and therefore is central to the Christian Education we provide.

Aims

The main aims of Collective Worship at Benhall are:

- ❖ To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- ❖ To introduce pupils to the distinctiveness of the Christian tradition and God as a Trinity.
- ❖ To help pupils to develop a sense of awe and wonder of the world about them and encourage their care and concern for all that is created.
- ❖ To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears etc. within a caring community.
- ❖ To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and allow time for pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- ❖ To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values
- ❖ To explore Christianity through a multicultural perspective, developing respect and sensitivity to the beliefs, cultures and values of people from all races and religions.
- ❖ To help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship.
- ❖ To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication

Pupil withdrawal

The right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship is available to all parents. If a parent decides to adopt this option, they will need to make a request to the Executive Headteacher.

Organisation

We use the Values for Life and Roots and Fruits schemes. Collective worship is held daily, mostly as a whole school, but occasionally within classes to enable children to reflect and respond individually upon the theme of the half term. The assembly schedule is organised by the Head of School and includes assemblies led by members of school staff and visitors. Members of the pupil Ethos group also lead assemblies and all children are encouraged to participate when appropriate through acting, reading or sharing their ideas. Most Fridays there is a Whole School Celebration assembly - celebrating children's work and achievements. This is one of the opportunities that pupils can also be recognised for acts of kindness or demonstrating our school values. Assembly is different to Collective Worship. We occasionally have an assembly led by a visitor where the focus is not on God. However we still light the candle, pray and sing. The School Family regularly worships at Benhall and Sternfield Church. Services include:

- ❖ Harvest Festival
- ❖ Remembrance Day
- ❖ Christingle and Carols Service
- ❖ Easter

Services may include pupil's own poetry, performance poems, dance, drama and music. The services are led by children from the Ethos group who work with the Head to plan the order and readings.

The school also supports Church services, wherever possible, by:

- ❖ Displays of appropriate work
- ❖ Prayers, poems or readings
- ❖ Laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday

Creating an appropriate setting

A calm and comfortable atmosphere is created by:

- ❖ Assembling in an orderly and quiet manner

- ❖ The use of background music
- ❖ Display focal points may be on a screen or an object on the Collective Worship table at the front of the hall.

The Character of Worship

Worship is planned with the following scaffold:

- i. Call to worship (music, an object or picture on display)
- ii. Greeting (Trinity reference, prayer, signing and candle lighting)
- iii. Engaging with the Word of God- Bible reading, storytelling, performance, video etc
- iv. Responding to the Word - through song, prayer, shared or private thought.
- v. Sending out - how can we take what we have heard out to the life of our school, community and world?

The children and staff are welcomed to the worship by members of the Ethos group who also light a candle with the words 'I light this candle to represent Jesus, the light of the world.' Members of the Ethos Group will then close the worship with a call and response of: 'May the peace of The Lord be with you,' with all pupils responding, 'and also with you'.

The acts of Collective Worship are planned to give the pupils a variety of experiences. These will include:

- ❖ Stories from the Bible, other religions and cultures. Reflection on what they teach us.
- ❖ Learning about and reflecting upon the half termly value - how can we become better Christians?
- ❖ Learning about other cultures and reflecting on how they impact upon our own lives.
- ❖ Learning about influential people and what is happening in the wider world (including the need for charity such as Children in Need)
- ❖ Discussion, speech and silence
- ❖ Poetry
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Visiting speakers
- ❖ Use of artefacts and images
- ❖ Celebrating achievements, effort and when Christian values are shown.

A Worshipful Response

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through:

- ❖ Silent reflection
- ❖ Shared ideas
- ❖ Spoken prayer
- ❖ Singing hymns and songs

Prayers may be written by pupils or selected by them from suitable sources, or short prayers led by the person taking the Collective Worship time. The choice of prayers and songs will be appropriate and reflect the particular theme of worship. Other opportunities to respond include writing responses to put onto the display board. Every half term, the children create a piece of work or drama in response to the value which is then placed on display.

Christianity as a world faith & opportunities to explore other faiths/visits

At Benhall, we understand that Christianity is an inclusive and welcoming world faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. School family members of faith and no faith are given opportunities to voice and share their own beliefs. Within worship we explore Christianity as a world faith and also make appropriate links and opportunities with other world faiths. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of the cultures, lifestyles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- Be appropriate for every student to attend
- Focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils
- Foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community - in preparation, participation and leadership.