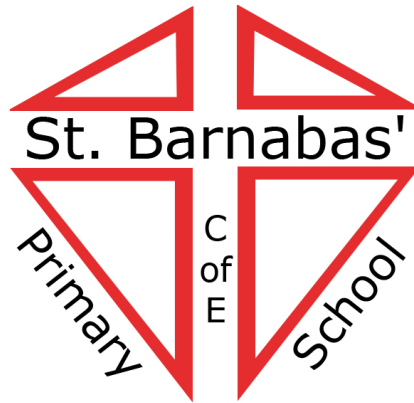


Heaton St. Barnabas' CE (VA) Primary School

Policy For



Worship

This policy was approved by Curriculum Committee

On: 10th January 2023

Signed.....

Position: Chair of Curriculum Committee

HEATON ST.BARNABAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.

Organisation of Collective Worship.

The Staff and Governors of Heaton St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, in accordance with our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship in our school is based upon Christian teaching, however we refer to other key faiths where ever possible. It usually takes place in the context of whole school, key-stage or class assemblies. Material from other faiths will be used in assemblies where appropriate, and elements which different faiths hold in common are often used.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the leadership team and teaching staff, a range of visiting church ministers, Imam, outside speakers and also the pupils of the worship team in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character.

We recognise that, although our school has a Christian foundation, our children come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including children from other faith, communities and those who do not share in any particular belief. Whilst the focus of our worship is Christian, we aim to be sensitive to the needs of all our children, and provide opportunities for all to share in worship in a way which makes sense to them and is appropriate to their stage of development.

As we are an Aided school, arrangements for collective worship is the responsibility of the governors in consultation with the Headteacher. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring requirements are met. Foundation Governors have particular responsibility for seeing, so far as is practicable, that the character of the school is reflected in worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of collective worship. Appropriate supervision will be provided for children who are withdrawn. The right of withdrawal does not apply to assemblies. Those wishing to exercise this right are requested to discuss arrangements with the Headteacher. The whole school attends St. Barnabas Church at least once each term to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

The Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator, in collaboration with worship team leader produces a half term plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

| | Main feature of worship | Assembly usually led by: |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | Overview of week + introduction of theme | The Head teacher / SLT |
| Tuesday | Praise & Achievement Phase 1 & 2 (Hall) Class Worship Phase 3 & 4 (Classrooms) | Assistant Headteacher or Phase 2 Leader |
| Wednesday | Praise & Achievement Phase 3 & 4 (Hall) Class Worship Phase 1 & 2 (Classrooms) | Deputy Headteacher / AHT / Phase 3 Leader |
| Thursday | Themed Worship OTB (Open the Book / St.Barnabas team) or Singing | Visiting speaker or Staff member. |
| Friday * | Class Assembly / School Parliament Worship Assembly | Class teachers / Pupil led Head teacher or Deputy Head |

* Parents are welcome to attend these acts of Collective Worship

Different groups of pupils from the Worship Team are responsible for preparing the hall for collective worship and deliver worship detailed on the termly timetable.

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

Acts of Worship are planned around a theme which may have a moral or spiritual focus. Stories from the Old and New Testament are used regularly but not exclusively as sources for teaching on spiritual, moral and social issues. Wherever possible we offer opportunities for the worship team to lead worship. The school makes use of Big Start Assemblies, Values for All and recommended materials from the diocese.

Assemblies include sharing of special achievements or work. Children are also encouraged to bring news of particular achievements to share with everybody in assemblies.

The beginning of our act of worship is usually signified by the lighting of a candle on a table which also contains a cross, and any other material relevant to the theme.

The main focus of the act of worship is introduced through stories, songs, drama, questioning or occasionally through dance. Worship may include a short quiet time for reflection.

Prayer is always used as part of worship, though children of other faiths are not expected to say Christian prayers, and we are most concerned to allow all children to retain the integrity of their own beliefs without compromise.

The act of worship usually finishes with prayer and often includes a song of praise or thanksgiving. Children are invited to include themselves in the prayer by saying Amen at the end if they wish.

Praise and prayer:

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Daily Worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the beauty of the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the old and New Testament with particular emphasis on core values drawing wherever possible links to other key faiths particularly from the Quran.

Life Application:

Children are given opportunity to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions as well as those of no religious background.

Celebration & Achievement:

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, video clips, drama etc. Class led assemblies are often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community. Use of Picture news to discuss media news and items of discussion. This enables pupils to have a platform to ask questions, raise opinions and be given a neutral environment to share views.

Family Community:

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment explained through a set of core shared values. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Equal Opportunities:

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities, sexuality, belief and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, sexuality, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons. Where pupils are withdrawn the Headteacher will discuss reasons with individual parents and encourage them to come along and experience worship first hand before making a final decision.

Special Education Needs:

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

Planning:

Collective Worship planning is outlined on a Half Term Plan and includes several features:

- Biblical theme
- Prayer
- Visitors from St.Barnabas Church
- Visits from the local Imam
- Visitors from other Places of Worship
- Picture News
- Charity for the half term
- School initiative eg Eco, Fair trade initiatives
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God given gifts and talents
- Class led worship where the parents are invited
- Tuesday / Wednesday award celebration and performances with parents
- End of term visit to St.Barnabas Church to celebrate main Christian Festivals
- Highlights of the half term and pupil led praise / thankfulness at the end of the half term.
- Singing Worship around twice a term led by teachers and SLT.

When planning around a theme we try to incorporate materials from other faiths where appropriate, together with common elements from other faiths. Other Christian groups in the community come in to lead acts for worship from time to time. Major Christian festivals are celebrated within our Worship as well as festivals from other faiths at key-points during the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from children in class - written or verbal.
- parents' comments.
- observation by Foundation Governors
- observations of the quality of worship by the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Church / School Prayer meetings

St. Barnabas Church actively supports Worship in school and school services held in church. These are all led by the pupil Worship team. Governors attend services and worship to support, monitor and evaluate. There is a prayer group that meets weekly to pray for school events and arising matters which school staff add into the prayer book as they feel necessary. St Barnabas Church members actively support Hand 2 Mouth Spiritual journeys and attend services delivered by the school.

The children also visit St Barnabas and St Pauls' Churches throughout the year in support of their RE learning on places of worship.