



Our Vision
RESPONSIBILITY
RESPECT
RESILIENCE

**A shining light in our
community**

You are the light of the world. A city
on a hill cannot be hidden. - Matthew
5:14b

Collective Worship Policy

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Related Documents		
Guidance		
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Collective Acts of Worship Policy

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, there must be a daily act of worship which considers the age and aptitude of learners. The Collective Worship at Bradford Academy will be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' As a Church of England school, we are committed to providing aspirational and constantly evolving opportunities to participate in collective worship that are based on the Christian Vision of the school founded on the Anglican tradition.

As an all-through school the policy differentiates between primary and secondary but also enables the core principles and school vision to be central to our practice. This allows for the development of Collective Worship and spirituality, both communally and personally for students and staff. Collective Worship will reflect the Christian Vision of the school and be conducted in a manner that is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring so that all members of our community can participate in meaningful worship.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Bradford Academy is a time when the whole school or groups within the school come together to reflect upon God and the teachings of the bible. To encourage everyone to understand how Christian teachings are relevant in today's world, resources will be developed to help everyone reflect upon world events, social issues, and common interests. This will enable everyone the opportunity to participate in engaging, relevant and meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship reflects and contributes to Christian Vision of Bradford Academy, and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit
- Nurture spiritual growth

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Take ownership of the leading and delivery of collective worship
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reflect on the direction of their lives
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond

- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Consider the wonders and worries of the world

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Bradford Academy, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of learners by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives, and will provide an opportunity to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural understanding. Collective Worship will address a wide variety of topics and will use diverse stimuli and resources to provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Chaplain will lead others by working alongside members of staff to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship, so that we can stay true to the tenets of worship whilst assisting everyone in the school, of all faiths and none, to engage with this important part of our day. We have a rota that shares the topic and person/group leading and delivering the content which can be viewed on our website.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

"Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response... Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly."

Collective Worship is organised to provide learners with a variety of opportunities to engage in spiritual reflection. In Primary this will take place in the school halls or the classrooms. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school events, 'themed' class based weekly sessions, as well as RE lessons. In secondary daily reflections in the morning and at the end of the day, year group assemblies and themed whole school events

Primary:

- *Monday* - Whole school collective worship.
- *Tuesday* - Class collective worship exploring Monday's message further.
- *Wednesday* - Key Stage 1 collective worship. KS2 class collective worship – Picture News.
- *Thursday* – Key Stage 2 collective worship. KS1 class collective worship – Picture News.
- *Friday* - Whole school celebration collective worship covering following half-term theme, incorporating a reflection time/prayer at the end.

Secondary:

- *Monday – Friday:* Daily class collective worship is observed through a time of prayer, reflection, and discussion at the start of every day. This happens collectively in class rooms

and occurs across the whole of the secondary phase. In this time, we explore different themes and link spirituality to current life situations. It is a time to explore Christianity along with other faiths and relate these to our daily lives.

- *Year group CW (Collective Worship) assemblies:* Once a week each year group comes together for collective worship in the form of an assembly. This has more of a focus on our weekly topic and provides a time for prayer, reflection, discussion, and worship. This is led by staff and put together in partnership with learners and the school chaplain.
- *Other events that will include collective worship will include a time of prayer at the start / end of awards evenings, school concerts, or similar such community gatherings, these will be lead and coordinated by the chaplain.*
- *All forms are invited to visit Sacred Space for a collective worship session led by the chaplain.*
- *All staff briefings start or end with a reflection and/or prayer.*

Leadership / Student Involvement

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors are invited to be involved in attending acts of collective worship on a weekly basis. Students are encouraged to suggest topics and ideas for Collective worship: In both primary and secondary we have a Worship Committee who come together to help think and plan what they want collective worship to look like. Alongside these two groups, individual students are also encouraged to help develop ideas for collective worship.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. All the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude, and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Some of the ways these things are done are through discussion, video, drama, art, music, singing, dance, and various other ways.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship, then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made at the beginning or end of the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategies staff currently use to monitor and evaluate the delivery of collective worship include:

- Observation of children's reaction and participation during worship
- Feedback from children in class - This is collected through a feedback form on the staff portal.
- Feedback from staff - This is collected through staff feedback form and conversations with school chaplain.

- Observations of the quality of worship by the chaplain and selected SLT (Senior Leadership Team).

Spirituality

At Bradford Academy we want to invest in the spirituality of everyone in our Academy. We believe spirituality is more than just religion but comes in many ways which move us as humans to experience things that can sometimes feel beyond words.

We provide the opportunity to ask and explore the big questions we come across in life. To find if there is more to life than just existing.

Collective Worship plays a big part in developing spirituality in our school but is not the only way we encourage everyone to explore it.

It is something we aim to explore through our curriculum in all subjects. We also aim to provide experiences through trips, electives, and school concerts/performances, all of which can provide experiences of spirituality.

Equal Opportunities

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all students and pay due regard to their ages, abilities, and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, ethnicity and physical or mental ability. Students currently take part in Collective Worship and have opportunities to lead worship, however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons only after discussion with the principal and confirmation in writing. As part of review processes the Special Education Needs Staff ensure that materials and subject matter used in Collective Worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all students in school.

Withdrawal

Our acts of worship will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all learners and staff feel comfortable to participate. However, we recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship on the grounds of conscience. In these instances, parents are asked to confirm their right to withdraw in writing. After receiving the letter, the principal will invite parents to discuss the matters that have been raised.

Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal. However, the Principal will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right of withdrawal:

- The elements of Collective Worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- The practical implications of withdrawal; and
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Rights of teachers

As with the rights of parents, the rights of teachers and head teachers to withdraw from Collective Worship as described in the 1944 Act remain unchanged. However, in Voluntary schools where head teachers and teachers have a National Society contract including the clause, "respecting the character of the foundation," teachers will be expected to take part in Collective Worship and model respectful reflection during this time.