



BARWELL



ACADEMY



BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED – LEARNING THAT LASTS A LIFE TIME

Barwell C of E Academy Collective Worship

Love thy neighbour in a flourishing school community.

We want all children, regardless of their individual circumstances, to feel part of a **community with Jesus' protective love at heart** which **celebrates diversity with the highest expectations, both academically and behaviourally**. As a **Church of England School** we endeavour to provide a caring **Christian** environment in which our school community can **flourish**. We believe that part of helping children and adults on their journey to becoming the **best version of themselves** includes developing their knowledge and understanding of their own faith, beliefs and **spirituality** through daily acts of Collective Worship and the teaching and exploration of our **Christian** and **British Values**. This will enable children (and adults) to progress in their **social, moral, spiritual** and **cultural** development by providing them with the chance to learn, **reflect**, worship, praise, question and share amongst their peers and build upon their own sense of **character**. In doing so, opportunities are made for considering some of the main festivals celebrated by a range of religions, and how the beliefs and faith of others can compare to Christianity. This provides an avenue to promote courageous advocacy, aiming to help children understand that everyone is welcome in our wonderfully diverse world and why prejudice, discrimination and injustice should be challenged.

Part 1: Collective Worship design

Rationale:

Our Collective Worship delivery originally followed termly suggested themes and objectives provided by the Diocese. These ensured our planning and delivery of Collective Worship was strong for developing our children's spirituality and in line with our Diocese's expectations. Sessions were led by our head, deputy, teaching staff, parish priests and church friends, providing a variety of opportunities for engaging worship but we wondered to what extent the coverage developed *our* school's vision and values and whether we could diversify the members of community delivering worship even more.

In redesigning our Collective Worship coverage, we asked ourselves three questions:

1. How can we ensure content consistently links to and reflects *our* school's Christian vision and values?
2. Do children gain an understanding of Christianity as a multicultural, world faith through our Collective Worship and RE delivery?
3. Are different members of our school community invited and enabled to deliver Collective Worship within school?

Our reorganised Collective Worship delivery aims to match these needs and overall aim, ensuring strategic planning is centred around these core questions.

Research:

Initially, before commencing the long term, yearly plan of Collective Worship, we sought advice from the Diocese Board of Education. This highlighted that the new SIAMS framework emphasises worship within schools linking to each particular school's vision and values and also the opportunities that Collective Worship presents for unpicking British Values by placing them in context. We were directed to the Worship Workshop website:

<https://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/> to support our planning.

We also explored ways of further diversifying people who lead Collective Worship in school. We liaised with St Philip's Centre, for contacts to invite Christians of different branches and denominations into school to lead worship and looked into options for engaging more of our local community in worship sessions. We also piloted having a Collective Worship Crew, made up of children from across year groups, in order to have more child-led acts of worship in addition to year group deliveries each term.

From this research, we were able to develop a set of principles unto which our Collective Worship would be based. This would allow us to always ensure that we focused on what was important to us as a school and fundamentally, our children.

Principles:

Below is a set of principles for our Collective Worship to be built upon:

- **Daily** – an act of worship will take place every day, be this whole school or within classes or smaller groups
- **Inspiring, engaging and thought provoking** – provides opportunities for children and adults to come together to think, learn, celebrate, worship and praise in a safe and secure environment. Big questions can be considered and life/national events explored. These may offer chances for fostering feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy, leaving them with things to reflect upon and apply in their own life
- **A sense of belonging** – being broadly Christian in nature, our school community will feel that they belong to a caring school community and are welcomed and invited to the family of God
- **Belongs to Barwell** – we are an outward facing school that collaborates with many others and but ultimately, our Collective Worship content will be unique to us as it is centred around *our* vision and values

- **Focus on the Triune God** – our gathering prayer to open acts of Collective Worship and the artefacts of a cross, the Bible and a candle underline the nature of the triune God and remind children of the meaning of the Trinity
- **Widens children's experiences** – it will engage children in things they may not have done before or thought about before. It will develop understanding that we are part of a local, national and global community and how Christian care and compassion can be shown. We want our children to be able to go out into the world as respectful, informed reflective citizens, developing their sense of place within it
- **Anglican in delivery** – we use the Bible as both a source of inspiration for themes and stories, observe the cycle of the Church's Year and using liturgical colours for altar cloths, celebrate Feast and Saint Days, use Christian symbols, use hymns and prayers from worship, including Anglican sentences/responses and the Lord's Prayer
- **Developmental** – it will enable our community to explore their own spirituality and character whilst developing moral, social and cultural awareness
- **Inclusive** – all members of the school community will be welcomed to participate in and lead worship unless parents have expressed their right to withdraw their child in consultation with the Headteacher in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1996. Our worship reflects the varied backgrounds of children and staff, aptitudes and ages
- **Inviting** – parents, families, friends, our parish church friends of St Mary's and the wider community will be invited to share in our worship sessions
- **Christianity is multicultural** - planning and delivery of Collective Worship should reflect that we want our children to appreciate Christianity as a diverse, living world faith
- **Church links** – members of our Parish and local churches will be invited and welcomed to lead and join us in worship
- **Varied in delivery** – children will be provided with a variety of worship forms and experiences, depending upon when the act of worship is delivered or by whom
- **Celebrate Festivals and Events** – at certain points of the year, we showcase work children have done relating to special events in the Christian calendar, including Harvest, Remembrance and the Nativity
- **Promotes the Equality Act (2010)** – our Collective Worship will give children the chance to explore diversity through developing their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, encouraging fostering respect for others and challenging injustice
- **Right to withdrawal** – recognises that parents may express the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship

Overview of Collective Worship:

Below is an overview of how our Collective Worship will be delivered:

- Collective Worship will be planned each year by the Collective Worship Leader, with termly rotas being circulated to the school community showing the theme and those responsible for delivering our daily acts of worship
- The themes of worship covered and shown on the rotas will directly link to the school's Christian vision, values and also British Values
- Across each term, there will be a range of people responsible for delivering these acts of worship including the Headteacher, Deputy Head, teachers and staff, local priests, church friends, year groups, collective worship crew and other visitors invited into school
- There will be a specific theme and objective for those responsible for delivering acts of worship, with the person responsible for the week's theme choosing a piece of music for the week and creating a poster to display the theme and chosen music title
- Within some weeks, key dates from the Christian calendar and some pertaining to global citizenship will be incorporated
- Across the week, our worship may present in varying forms. However, each act will always open with the chosen music of the week and then our gathering prayer, which is collectively spoken as we light the candle to show that Jesus is the light the world – our guiding light:

We meet in the name of God:

God the Father,

God the Son,

God the Holy Spirit:

God is One.

- To develop spirituality, there is a balance between music, speech, and silence to allow for worship, praise and reflection. This may be achieved through:
 - The word – a story, anecdote, drama, electronic presentation, celebration, singing practice etc. linked to the theme of the week. The person leading the worship will also make any links to our Christian and/or British Values where relevant at this point.
 - A short Biblical reference/link relevant to the theme of the week and introduced
 - A hymn or spiritual song chosen for the act of worship from a list provided by our music leader
 - A link to Christian and British Values
 - A time to think and reflect
 - A prayer spoken by the worship leader and/or child /children who are leading prayers
 - The candle is extinguished at the end of the act of worship
 - A sending prayer and parting thought for consideration/reflection when leaving the hall in silence as the music of the week is played to dismiss or to mark the end of the worship

- Collective Worship is usually delivered each week as follows:

Monday: At 9.00am, our whole school act of collective worship is led by our Headteacher, Victoria Newman, with a focus on Everyone's Welcome and diversity, with teachers in attendance. This may be remotely or in person.

Tuesday: At 9.00am, the school meet to praise, worship and reflect through song led by our Deputy Head, Mrs Stewart, with teachers in attendance and our Headteacher when possible. Where this cannot take in place in person, as we have seen in recent times, a Wellness delivery will be shared by Mrs Stewart remotely.

Wednesday: At 9.00am, our whole school act of Collective Worship is led by our Open The Book teams made up of friends from St Mary's Parish Church, with teachers in Attendance. Alternatively, Bible stories are shared with classes should our Open The Book Friends be unable to attend.

Thursday: At 9.00, our whole school act of collective worship is led by class teachers, children or guests on a termly rota with teachers in attendance and our Headteacher when possible

Friday (Thoughtful Friday): At 9.00am, classes/groups engage in an act of collective worship to close the week, known as Thoughtful Friday. This opens with the lights being dimmed as a candle is lit and our school's gathering prayer is shared as is in our morning acts of worship. Voluntary discussion centred on the half term's focus Christian Value is shared and a prayer is said at the end. This is a further opportunity to develop interpretation of spirituality. By placing this act at the end of the week, the whole school enters the weekend in a positive, uplifted, calm mood. This time for reflection also provides an excellent opportunity to develop 'the child's voice'.



In addition to this, Reverend Philip Watson of St Mary's Parish Church, Barwell, regularly visits to lead collective worship on certain dates of the Anglican Calendar (for example, Saints' Days, Ash Wednesday, Pentecost, Advent).

N.B. As a school, we acknowledge that occasionally, the format of our daily act of worship may be altered to accommodate changes.

- Collective worship is monitored through a triangulated approach:
 - Collective Worship plans are completed by those leading Collective Worship and submitted to the Collective Worship Leader (see Appendix 1)
 - Staff peers monitor Collective Worship and submit this to the Collective Worship leader and this is shared with the person/group that led the worship session for future development (see Appendix 2)

- Each year group (and families, friends and the wider community when present) are invited to complete their views in Feedback and Comment Books after each act of Collective Worship (See Appendix 3)
- Collectively, these documents are analysed and evaluated by the Collective Worship Leader at the end of each term, in order to implement planning and progression for the following term and is available to all stake holders

Appendix 1: Planning Grid

 Barwell Collective Worship – Daily Planning Grid 	
Collective Worship led by:	
Date:	
Weekly Theme of Worship:	
Objective Covered:	
Music of the Week:	
Light the candle and recite the 'gathering prayer'	<i>We meet in the name of God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit: God is one.</i>
Engaging: (a story, anecdote, drama, electronic presentation, celebration, singing in singing practice etc. linked to the theme of the week/specific objective)	
Word of God - Biblical reference:	Word of God – Introduction: <i>e.g. Show us your paths, O Lord, and teach us your ways.</i> <i>For the gift of his holy word, thanks be to God.</i> <i>This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.</i> <i>I am the light of the world, says the Lord.</i> <i>Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.</i>
	The Word of God (Bible Reference):
Link of chosen engagement to half termly Christian Value:	
Sharing school's chosen Biblical quote pertaining to half termly Christian Value:	
Link to British Values:	
Hymn chosen for this collective worship:	
A quiet time for children to think and reflect upon what they have heard today	
A 'response prayer' (If prayer written and delivered by children, please make clear on your plan)	
Extinguish candle	

Choose a child from each year group to fill in an evaluation in the Collective Worship Comment Book for their year group as you dismiss the school

'Parting Thought' and
'Sending Out Prayer'

E.g.



*As we remember that giving is more important than getting, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.***

*Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.*

*May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace **and make our school a place of love. Amen.***

*May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts.
Amen.*

Appendix 2: Monitoring Grid

 Barwell Collective Worship – Monitoring 		
Collective Worship led by:	Theme (which Christian Value) and objective of worship:	
Date:	Name of person monitoring Collective Worship:	
Has the Collective Worship leader followed the planning structure?	Music of the week played	
	Children entered in silence (where applicable)	
	Candle lit and gathering prayer shared	
	Delivery engaging with a clear purpose	
	Word of God introduced	
	The Word of God shared	
	Link to Christian Value made	
	Biblical quote pertaining to Christian Value shared	
	Link to British Value made	
	Hymn (if applicable)	
	Reflection time given	
	Responding prayer	
	Candle extinguished	
	Parting thought and sending out shared	
Feedback from children requested		
Strengths of Collective Worship:	E.g. Were children engaged and involved? Did worship support and promote their SMSC?	
Even Better If:		
Any additional comments?		

Appendix 3: Children's Feedback Form



Barwell Collective Worship – Children's Feedback



Date: _____	Objective of Collective Worship: _____
Name of person/group of people that led Collective Worship: _____ -----	Name of child reviewing Collective Worship: _____ Class: _____
This Half Term's Christian Value: Friendship	
What was today's Collective Worship about?	_____ _____ _____
What did you learn from today's Collective Worship?	_____ _____ _____
What did you enjoy?	_____ _____ _____
What do you think could have been better?	_____ _____ _____