

Baldersby St James Collective Worship Policy



Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of HOPE, RESPECT, PERSEVERANCE and COMMUNITY.

Our vision is to provide an education which transforms lives and communities. In partnership with our parents, church and communities, and through our Christian values of HOPE, RESPECT, PERSEVERANCE and COMMUNITY, we aim for everyone to reach their full potential in body, mind, heart and spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

This celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship Baldersby St James academy is planned to

- to be **inspirational** and **inclusive**. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be **invitational** and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parents contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

[Inclusion and Equal Opportunities](#)

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by ...[e.g., lighting a candle/asking children to reflect quietly ...].

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Nigel Stewart (Headteacher).

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held every day of the week. These are taken by all staff and Rev Susanne, and members of the parish for 'Open the Book'. Pupils also regularly lead worship.

Visitors may also be invited.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the schools vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Rev Susanne Jukeis and parish members for 'Open the Book' are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Policy agreed by Board of Governors on September 2019

Next Review Sept 2022