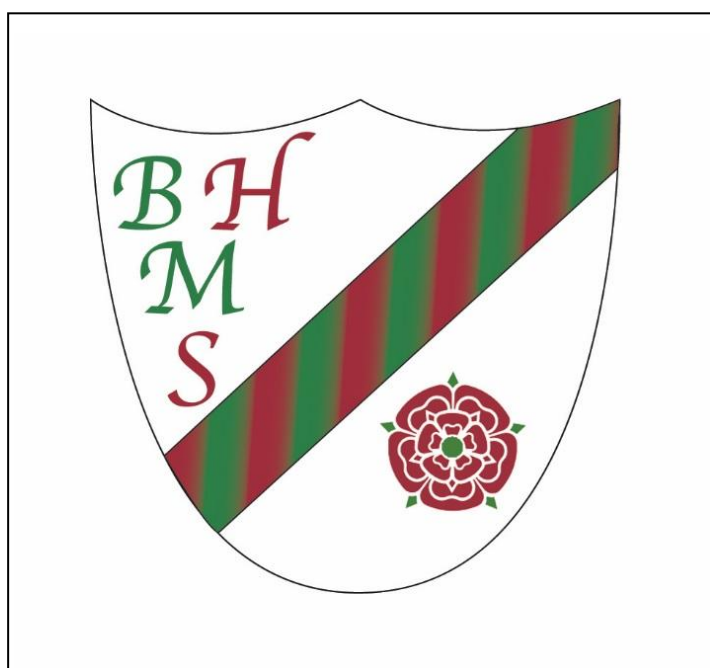


# Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Written by:	Mrs L Draper
Date agreed:	May 2026
Next Review Date:	May 2028
Chair's Signature	

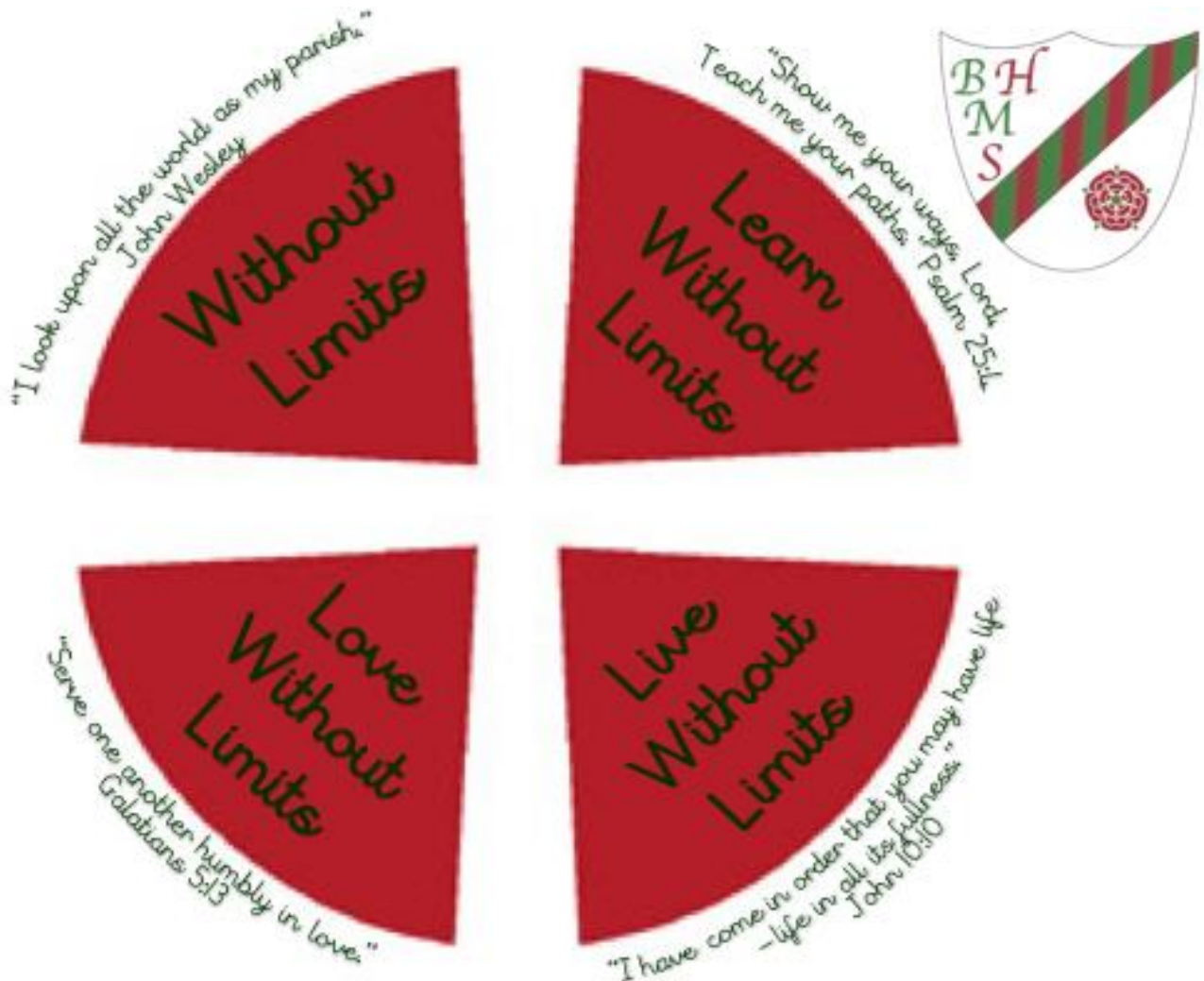
## Mission Statement

Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School strives to provide a caring environment in which every individual can achieve his or her full potential.

To achieve this we wish to create a happy secure and purposeful atmosphere throughout the school, which is conducive to learning and high standards, and is based on Christian values.

We encourage all pupils to respect and understand the views of others from other or no faith traditions as an inclusive school.

## Vision



## Version Control

### Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Section	Reason for Change
May 2021	L Whittaker	1		New Policy
May 2024	L Draper	23	<p>Version Control added</p> <p>Contents page added</p> <p>1. Rationale added, and legislative framework added to this</p> <p>(2) Aims revised</p> <p>(3) 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 added</p> <p>(4) Addition of monitoring. Addition of similarities within reflection areas.</p> <p>Removal of language around 'other' or 'different' faiths</p> <p>Minor edits to all sections.</p>	<p>Changes to practice.</p> <p>(1) Clarity for all</p> <p>(2) Focus on impact of worship on adults as well as pupils.</p> <p>(3) Clearer intent and implementation to ensure high quality worship</p> <p>(4) Improve inclusivity of language and emphasis on continuous growth.</p>
May 2026	L Draper	3	(1) Section 3.1. Clarity within 8 step approach	(1) To support teachers delivering worship

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**Contents**

**Safeguarding Statement**

At Bedford Hall Methodist we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where pupils are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that pupils receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in the Child Protection Policy apply to all staff, governors, volunteers and visitors and are consistent with those of the Local Safeguarding Pupils Board.

## **Rationale**

Collective Worship in Church schools is governed by the trust deed of the school as well as the 1988 Education Reform Act. We acknowledge and meet the requirements determined in points 6 (1) and 9 (3) of this act:

- A *daily* act of collective worship for *all* pupils
- Collective worship will be “wholly or mainly of broad Christian character”
- Ensuring that relevant information is available to parents regarding arrangements for collective worship and rights of withdrawal

As a Methodist school, and in line with our trust deed, it is our aim to educate pupils on the values, traditions and beliefs of the Methodist Church, as well as the diverse and global nature of the broader Christian faith.

Collective Worship at Bedford Hall is:

- **Inclusive:** so it is meaningful to all, whatever their faith, culture, or religious / non-religious worldview. Adjustments are made for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) so that daily worship is accessible.
- **Invitational:** so there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’ but all pupils and adults are welcomed to be present and engage with integrity.
- **Inspiring:** so it motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on events, behaviours and attitudes of themselves and others.
- **Interactive:** so pupils and adults can explore, question, and respond to worship themes and, for some, respond to God. Pupils and adults are active participants through carefully-considered evaluation processes rather than as passive attenders.

Most importantly, times of collective worship allow the school to share, celebrate and affirm our sense of belonging and togetherness. This maintains our Christian culture to work together as one team, one family and one community. Our shared mission is to uphold and follow our one school rule, as taught by John Wesley: *Do all the good you can.*

At Bedford Hall, the daily act of collective worship is an integral and important part of school life. Each morning begins with a palpable sense of calmness and peace as we come together to prepare for the day ahead. Through this and in the general culture of the school, we seek to promote our vision to *Learn, love, live: without limits*. Our vision is rooted within the bible, through Jesus’ promise to come so that we may have life: *‘Life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10)*. Through worship, pupils and adults are inspired through this verse to be a ‘Good Shepherd’ for others – to look after each other and feel safe that others will look after us. It is through this safety and sense of belonging, that pupils and adults can discover and strengthen their talents, so they may live, *without limits*.

The worship of the school is based on promoting the vision and our associated Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, clergy, Minister and other visitors are valued highly.

## **Worship Aims**

The aims of Collective Worship at Bedford Hall Methodist School are multi-faceted and varied. Worship is carefully considered to reflect pupils' experiences or appropriately expand and broaden them.

Worship aims to:

- Continuously deepen knowledge and understanding of the school vision, so it can be fulfilled by all people, at all times, and in all places
- Provide opportunities, without compulsion, for pupils and adults to experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Extend the capacity of pupils and adults to seek meaning beyond the material and physical by growing spiritually. This is through daily opportunities to engage with the joys, sorrows and trials of life (see [transformation time](#))
- Explore and reinforce the Christian values of our school: love, teamwork, thankfulness, generosity, peace, forgiveness, equality and justice.
- Explore virtues that develop character and contribute to academic progress: resilience, determination, curiosity and creativity
- Encounter the teachings of Jesus through stories to help pupils and adults appreciate the relevance of Christianity in today's world
- Understand the Trinitarian nature of God – The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit
- Develop spiritually by practising specific Methodist traditions, such as 'Singing the Faith' and 'Hearts being strangely warmed'.
- Enable pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways: through music, silence, story, prayer, imagery and reflection.
- Provide a peaceful environment that encourages and invites pupils and adults to actively participate in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship, in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Develop a spirit of community: for pupils and adults to *want* to love and serve others as their personal responsibility towards justice.
- Promote the work of John Wesley and encourage pupils and adults to see the world as their parish
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate all major, and some minor, Christian festivals and some major festivals of other principal religions.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community and church.
- Promote British Values: democracy; the rule of law; mutual respect and tolerance; and individual liberty.
- Respond to examples where justice is denied so that pupils and adults, alone or collectively, can make a difference
- Provoke in those present a sense of meaning, wonder, joy and celebration or thanksgiving.

### **3. Planning and Organisation**

The long-term plan for collective worship is created annually by the headteacher, with support and guidance from the Methodist minister. A programme of weekly themes is identified for each term, which include the celebration of key Christian festivals, Christian values focus, themed weeks including fundraising opportunities, major festivals from other faiths, and pertinent stories to be shared. This policy should be read alongside the annual Collective Worship Plan.

Collective worship is held from 9.00am – 9.25am in the school hall, chapel or classrooms. This is so the community can gather together as one, whether in times of crisis or celebration, before the start of the school day.

It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoid assuming faith/belief/religion within those participating, listening and watching. Training is provided to those that lead worship to be particularly mindful about the diverse and global nature of Christianity, in addition to other religious and non-religious worldviews. This is to ensure pupils and adults understand that faith/belief/religion is unique to the region, denomination, community and individual and will be expressed in many different ways.

#### **3.1 Eight-Step Approach:**

At Bedford Hall Primary School, we use an eight step approach to worship:

1. **Prepare for Worship:** Worship begins by pupils listening to a piece of classical music. The worship leader and/or pupils will then help others to prepare for worship and create a sense of cohesion:
  - Three candles, representing the Holy Trinity are lit.
  - A call to worship from Psalm 118:24 is then said:  
Leader: This is the day the Lord has made  
Response: We will rejoice and be glad in it.
  - Deep breathing exercises to feel safe and grounded.
2. **Key Message:** Introduce the theme of the worship, linking to any prior knowledge, experiences or events.
3. **Exploration:** The worship leader explores the theme. What it is, why it's important to pupils and adults at our school. This may be shared through stories, videos, artwork, song, drama, visitors etc.
4. **Bible Links:** Links between the worship theme and Jesus' teaching from the bible are shared and passages discussed.

5. **Transformation Time:** Pupils and adults have time to think and reflect on the worship. We use an 'Ow, Wow, Now' approach to target and guide meaningful reflection. The focus is on how a pupil or adult may serve others and be called to action as a result of this worship.

**OWS** - These are the blows life can bring. The times when things don't go to plan; when you feel things have been unjust or unfair; and when you feel overwhelmed with negative thoughts or feelings.

**WOWS** - These are the moments of awe and wonder. The times that feel so wonderful that you want to capture that feeling and hold on to it for as long as you can. It is also a time for you to explore your own and others' perspectives and reflect on life's big questions.

**NOWS** - These are the times to reflect and be present in the moment: time to appreciate what you have and who you are. It is also time to apply your learning – it is an opportunity to consider your responsibility to act on what you believe and value to be just and fair.

6. **Prayers:** A prayer is shared by the worship leader and/or pupils. Pupils and adults are invited to make it their prayer by having their hands together and responding with 'Amen'. Those who do not want to join in with prayer may sit quietly and respectfully, in order to respect those that do. Pupils and adults will then be invited to say a prayer together, in particular the Lord's Prayer, John Wesley's rule and psalm 25:4.
7. **Singing the Faith:** Worship ends with a song or hymn that links to the worship theme. Both traditional and modern songs are learned that are Christian in nature and reflect our Christian values and acts of service. Pupils and adults, who are able to, will stand when the music starts, as they would in any Christian place of worship. Pupils and adults are invited to participate through singing, signing, using actions and/or dancing.
8. **Exit:** The worship leader will finish with any parting words. Classical music will be played and pupils and adults will file out from the back. Movements will be silent

### 3.2 Epworth Worship Together

Epworth Worship Together (EWT) was introduced in September 2023, to extend the sense of belonging and togetherness beyond the school and within the trust. EWT enables pupils and adults to live out the Trust vision: 'To be a family of schools working together so all within our communities flourish and succeed' in a meaningful way.

The plan for EWT is created annually by the central team and headteachers. A programme of weekly themes is identified for each term, which include the celebration of key Christian festivals; exploration of Christian values; and a focus on trust charities and the difference these make.

At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, pupils from all year groups apply and are elected each year as part of the 'Worship Committee'. These pupils plan and lead one EWT per term, supported by a teacher. Their worship is recorded and sent out to all trust schools to watch. Similarly, pupils in other schools, share their worship in the same way. Each worship session is accompanied by a resource sheet. This enables pupils and adults to reflect on the impact worship has had towards fulfilling our vision to *learn, love and live: without limits*. Reflections are kept in class floor books which are referred to throughout the year. This enables pupils to evaluate accurately whether they have used 'transformation time' to its full effect, and whether they have made a difference to themselves, or others, as a result of worship over time.

The resource sheet, and link to worship, is shared with parents to enable families to engage in school worship together. Suggested follow up activities to complete at home are useful to families who are on a journey of faith or spirituality together. At least once a term all schools in the Trust also come together for Epworth Worship Live, where each school contributes to an aspect of worship.

### 3.3 Weekly Structure

Worship is flexible and dependable on the church and school calendar of events. However the following structure is used in a typical week.

On a Thursday, worship is sometimes led by the minister, clergy, visitors, pupil committees or class teachers, depending on the theme. Each half term, we hold our Family Worship for Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils and families, during which various awards, prizes and certificates are presented to reward pupils for good work, behaviour and attendance. Each class from Reception – Year 6 lead a Christian worship each year to celebrate all major festivals. Parents and family are invited to attend.

Monday	Whole School Worship - SLT
Tuesday	Whole School Praise Time – Mrs Beatty Monthly Chapel Worship – Methodist Clergy
Wednesday	Epworth Worship Together and Reflection – Class Epworth Worship Live – Whole School
Thursday	Whole School Worship <i>or</i> Family Worship /Key Stage Worship <i>or</i> Worship for parents and carers.
Friday	Celebrating Life Without Limits – a chance for pupils to share and celebrate their news and successes in and out of school, including attendance.

Our Worship Committee - a group of pupils - regularly lead whole school worship, under the guidance of a teacher or the 'Open the Book' worship team from the Methodist circuit.

The whole school community and wider school and church family come together for Education Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Christingle Service and Christmas Carol Service— where pupils are actively involved in the planning, delivering and evaluating process.

Once per month, a class will visit the Community Coffee Morning, held in Chapel, and share their learning through song, poetry, artwork and prayer with the wider community.

#### **4. Prayer and Reflection**

As well as communal prayer and reflection areas such as ‘The Garden of Hope’ in the courtyard, each classroom (nurseries – Year 6) has its own prayer and reflection area. Each prayer and reflection area follows the 4 I’s: inclusive, invitational, inspiring and interactive. Foundation governors and members of the church regularly evaluate these areas to ensure continuous improvement and care.

***Inclusive:*** Pupils and adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all within the cohort. Many pupils and adults in our school come from a range of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Moreover, pupils and adults will be at different stages of their spiritual or religious journeys during their time in school. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning and evaluating the reflection areas and the activities and resources within them.

***Invitational:*** Pupils and adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to ‘do anything’, allowing the freedom of all pupils and adults to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will always be invited to pray whilst being given the option for quiet reflection if they do not wish to join in with prayer.

***Inspiring:*** Pupils and adults can expect the reflection areas they encounter to be inspirational. These spaces enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship and reflection, pupils and adults should be inspired to become change makers where they see justice denied. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, spiritual beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

***Interactive:*** Pupils and adults can expect the reflection areas they encounter to be interactive. Worship, prayer and reflection are interactive in that they involve meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Reflection areas include big questions to consider and activities are provided for pupils and adults to record some of their ideas, if they wish to do so. Tasks, games and books may be provided in reflection areas to deepen understanding of a particular theme, story or belief.

Although all reflection areas will look different, each will have the following similarities:

- The Methodist Orb, to remember our trust deeds.
- [School prayers](#), as a reference
- A bible, bookmarked to the current theme/story/passage
- Prayer aids, including those that depict the school's [Christian Values](#)
- Candles, to depict the trinitarian nature of God
- A reflection activity/suggestion
- EWT Floor Book

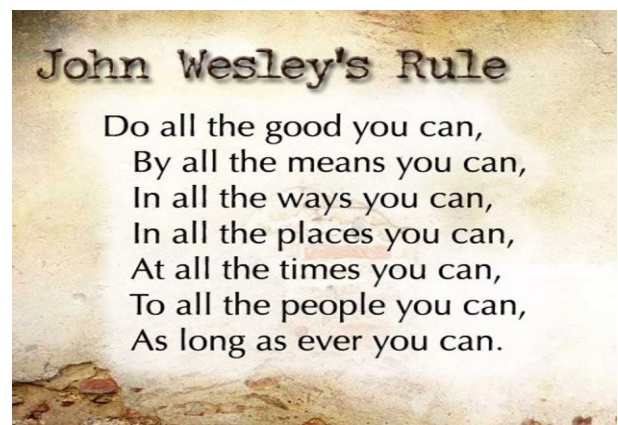
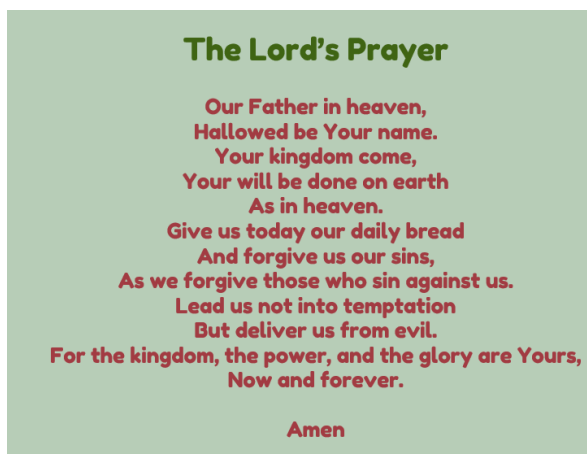
#### **4.1 School Prayers**

Pupils are invited to collectively recite the following prayers:

During collective worship: The Lord's Prayer, John Wesley's Rule.

Before lunch: Our Lunch time prayer

At the end of the day: Our Home time prayer



**Home time prayer**

Lord, keep us safe this night,  
Secure from all, our fears  
May angels guard us while we sleep,  
Until morning light appears.  
Amen.



## **5. School Values**

Each class focuses on one Christian value and this is explored in depth through class worship sessions. A values award is given to a child from each class each week which recognises a child who has demonstrated any of the following values:

Nursery: Love

Reception: Teamwork

Year 1: Thankfulness

Year 2: Generosity

Year 3: Peace

Year 4: Forgiveness

Year 5: Equality / Equity

Year 6: Justice

## **6. Pupil Participation**

We encourage all pupils to take part in our acts of worship through song, prayers, reflection, discussion and evaluation. Volunteers may be selected to help with role plays, lead actions for songs, or take part in presentations and games as part of an act of worship.

Pupils in Year 5 have various roles to support the running of worship. These include taking control of the laptop, lighting, screen and music; setting up the chairs and benches; leading the call to worship; lighting the candles; and reading or sharing bible passages and prayers.

The worship committee lead worship via Epworth Worship Together; Open the Book and Chapel.

All pupils get the opportunity to lead elements of worship for their class. Each class will lead worship once per year, where their parents are also invited to watch.

All pupils are invited to take part in prayer during worship as well as the class prayers at lunchtime and at the end of each day.

All pupils are invited to take part in the evaluation of worship and can contribute through a range of activities. These may include writing prayers, creating artwork and sharing thoughts and ideas. A selection of evaluations and reflections are recorded and kept in class floor books.



## **7. Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

Collective worship at Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School makes a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

a) **To spiritual development** by (for example)

- Encouraging pupils to consider their own values and attitudes
- Reflecting on human experience
- Exploring their own and other peoples' beliefs
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- Providing opportunities to see from another person's perspective

b) **To moral development** by (for example):

- Developing a sense of right and wrong
- Examining motives for actions
- Encouraging consideration towards others
- Developing pupil's awareness of the needs of others
- Promoting honesty and integrity
- Exploring issues of evil and suffering
- Encouraging moral behaviour

c) **To Social Development** by (for example):

- Listening to the views of others
- Promoting good relationships between individuals and groups
- Promoting concern for those with special needs
- Communicating with increasing confidence
- Encouraging concern for the common good and the good of others

d) **To cultural Development** by (for example):

- Enabling discussion from different cultural perspectives
- Encouraging pupils to see the worth of themselves, their family, religion; beliefs and culture
- Enabling pupils to encounter people from other cultures
- Promoting interest in culture and its expression

## **8. The Right to Withdraw**

As a Church School, we actively encourage all pupils to take a full part in our acts of worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their pupils from any act of worship on personal religious grounds. In these circumstances, parents would be asked to put their request in writing to the headteacher before a decision is made. Alternative arrangements for the child's supervision would be made during times where their class are involved in an act of worship.

## **9. Monitoring and Review**

The impact of worship is monitored and reviewed in a number of ways, including:

- Pupils' evaluations of worship
- Parents'/Family evaluations of worship
- Staff evaluations of worship
- Foundation governors evaluations of worship
- Church, School and Trust leaders' reviews

The worship plan is evaluated and reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team.

This policy is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher and Local Advisory Board every three years, or sooner to meet the expectations of current local and national changes.