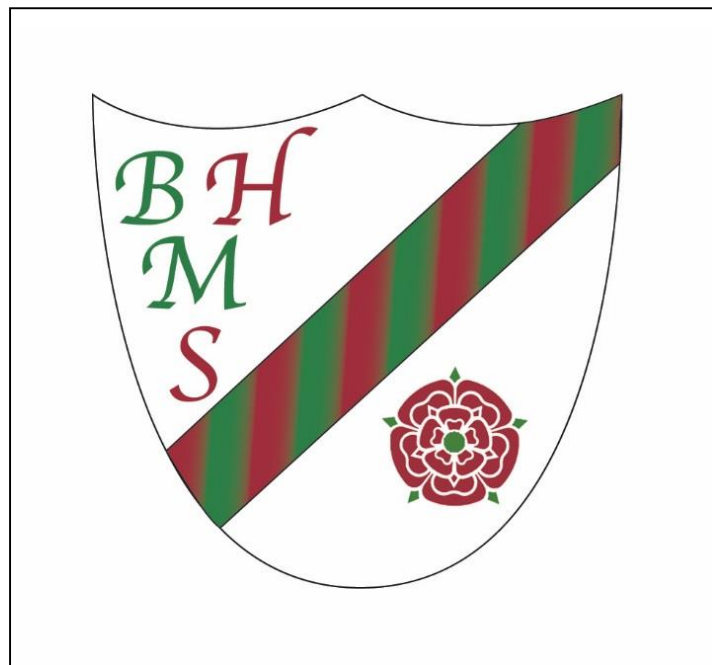


# Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Written by:	Miss L Whittaker
Date agreed:	September 2021
Next Review Date:	September 2024
Chair's Signature	

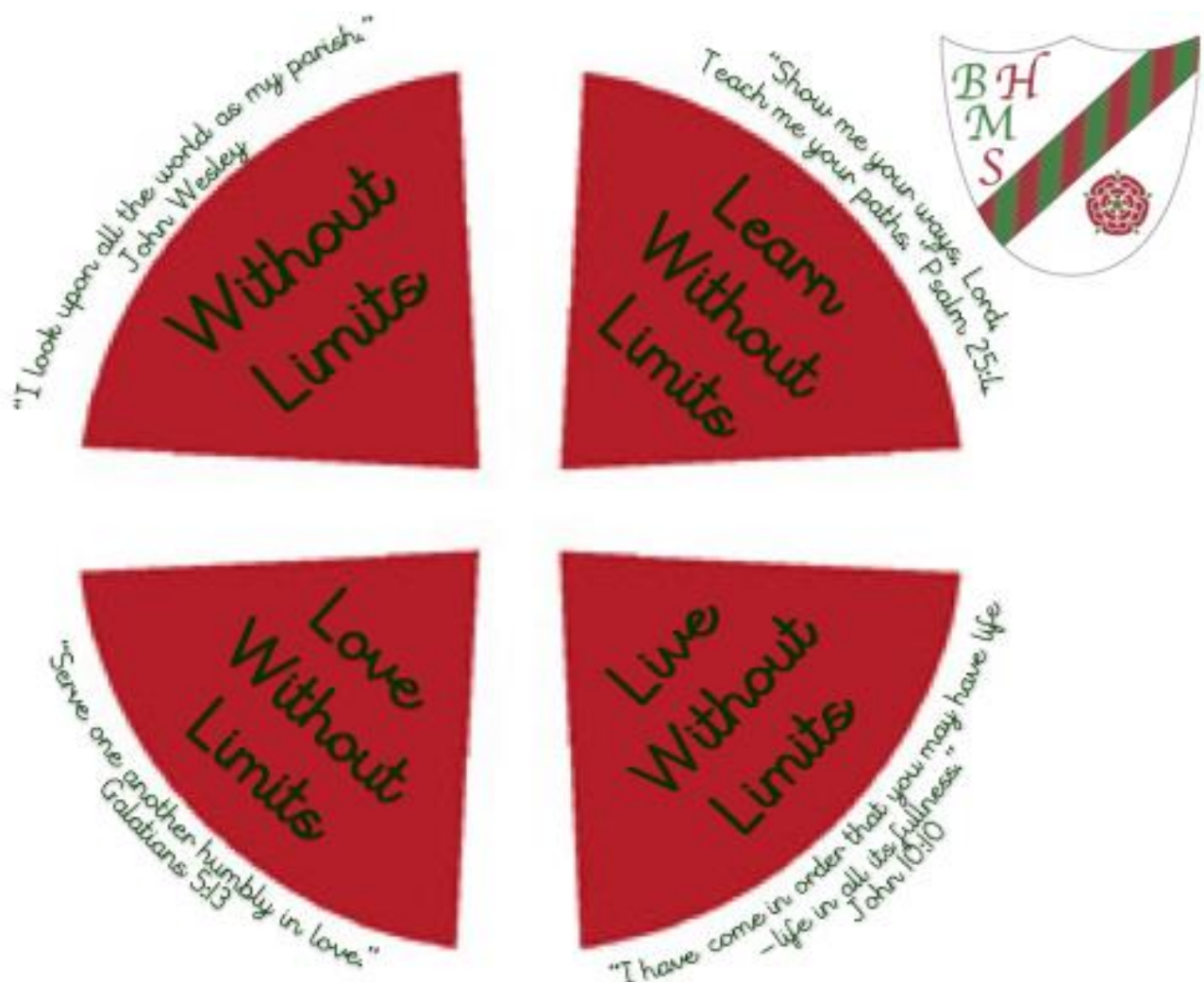
## Mission Statement

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.

## Our Vision



## Safeguarding Statement

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

We work to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children 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 Children Board.

## Policy Aims

As a Methodist Primary School, it is our aim to instil the values, traditions and beliefs of the Methodist Church in our pupils, as well as knowledge of the broader Christian faith.

As an inclusive school, we also encourage the children to understand and respect the views of those from other or no faith traditions, so that they can be understanding of the many beliefs and traditions that make up our multi-cultural society.

Most importantly, times of collective worship allow the school to share, celebrate and affirm our sense of community, strengthening the school culture.

At Bedford Hall, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general culture of the school we seek to promote our vision of **learn, love, 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, chaplain, Minister and other visitors are valued highly.

## Worship Aims

At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, collective worship is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. It is constantly evolving and re-imagined to provide children and adults with a dynamic experience.

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Bedford Hall Methodist School are to:

- Explore the school vision, so it can be fulfilled at all times and in all places
- Provide opportunities, without compulsion, for children and adults to grow spiritually and morally through the experience of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school: love, teamwork, thankfulness, generosity, peace, forgiveness, equality and justice.
- Explore virtues that develop character and contribute to academic progress: resilience, determination and creativity
- Encounter the teachings of Jesus through stories to help children and adults appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world
- Understand the Trinitarian nature of God
- Enable all children 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 children 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 children and adults to *want* to love and serve others and be courageous advocates
- Promote the work of John Wesley and encourage children and adults to also 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 represented in Great Britain.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community and church.
- Respect everyone equally– those of Christian faith, different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith
- Promote democracy; the rule of law; and individual liberty.

## **The Legislative Framework**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the requirement for:

- A **daily** act of collective worship for **all** pupils
- Most** acts of collective worship are to be “wholly or mainly of broad Christian character”
- Arrangements to provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age or school groups.
- Ensuring that relevant information is available to parents regarding arrangements for collective worship and rights of withdrawal.
- This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to the following: DfE (1994) ‘Religious, Education and Collective Worship’ and ‘Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Guidance version 18.5.21’

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

For the purpose of this policy, ‘Collective worship’ is an act additional to and separate from ordinary school activities. Pupils in collective worship time are able to work collaboratively to promote and explore Christian values and the school vision.

## **Planning and Organisation**

The long term plan for collective worship is created annually by the Senior Leadership Team. 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. (See Appendix 1: Worship Plan)

Collective worship is held from 9.05am – 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.

Worship begins by children entering to a piece of music and candles, representing the Holy Trinity are lit. A shared prayer and response 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.

Beginning collective worship in this way gives the school a sense of fellowship and cohesion.

During worship, children will sing, a key message will be shared through stories, drama, or other activities and there will be an opportunity for prayer (without compulsion) and reflection. School will sometimes invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during acts of worship or collective worship in accordance with the timetabled theme.

It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

The following are used as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church Year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost
- Learning and saying traditional prayers or responses from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer, John Wesley's rule and psalms 118:24 and 25:4.
- Praise time (Celebrating through traditional and modern songs that are Christian in nature and reflect our Christian values)
- Active participation of children – *not* passive attendance.

The current structure of collective worship is as follows. Teachers lead collective worship in class. Whole school worship is usually led by the Senior Leadership Team but is sometimes led by the school chaplain or class teachers, depending on the theme.

Monday	Whole School Worship
Tuesday	Class Worship
Wednesday	Whole School Worship
Thursday	Family Worship, Class Worship or Whole School Worship
Friday	Awards Assembly – a chance for children to share and celebrate their news and successes in and out of school, including attendance.

Once a month, Whole School Worship is held in the chapel and is led by the minister or Chaplain. On the last Thursday of each month, we hold our Family Worship for Reception and Key Stage 1, during which various awards, prizes and certificates are presented to reward pupils for good work, behaviour and attendance. Parents and family are invited to attend.

Worship Warriors, a group of children, regularly lead whole school worship, under the guidance of the school chaplain. Each class leads worship once during the school year when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. These include a focus on one of our Christian Values.

The whole school community and wider school and church family come together for Education Sunday, Christmas Carol service and Action for Children service – where children are actively involved the planning, delivering and evaluating process.

### **Prayer and Reflection**

As well as communal prayer and reflection areas such as 'The Garden of Hope' in the courtyard, each classroom (nursery – Year 6) has its own prayer and reflection area. Each prayer and reflection area follows the 4 I's: inclusive, invitational, inspiring and interactive.

***Inclusive:*** Children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many children and adults in our school come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many children will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Inclusion requires child involvement in planning and evaluating the reflection areas and the activities and resources within them.

***Invitational:*** Children, their families and other adults can expect to encounter reflection areas that are consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to 'do anything', allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Children 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:** Children, their families and other adults can expect the reflection areas they encounter to be inspirational. These spaces enable children and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates children 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, children and adults should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

**Interactive:** Children, their families and other 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 children 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.

### School Prayers

Children 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

*Lunch Time Prayer*

*Thank you for the world so sweet.  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you God for everything.*

An illustration within a dashed purple border. On the left, two blue birds with orange beaks and feet are shown. On the right, a hand is shown in a prayer position, with fingers together and palm facing up, wearing a blue sleeve.

### 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.





## **Children's Participation**

We encourage all children 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.

Children from Year 6 take turns in the role of worship helpers, organising the worship table, music and projector. Children in Key Stage 2 are invited to become Worship Warriors, where they attend an after school club with the school chaplain and then lead whole school worship that week.

All children get the opportunity to lead elements of worship for their class. Each class will also lead an assembly, including worship, for the school where parents are invited to watch.

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

## **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing appreciation and understanding regardless of belief. During worship, children may learn about the religious calendar of other faiths and continue this celebration as a class. For example, EYFS children may have apples and honey for a snack to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year. The World faiths taught at Bedford Hall include Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Please see RE Policy for further details.

## **Implementation**

The school aims to promote meaningful and rich collective worship experiences that are suitable to children's needs, ages and interests by:

- Being encouraged to contemplate and reflect on their beliefs, feelings and thoughts.
- Being exposed to different worship experiences: prayer (including silent individual), rituals, shared or written prayers, praise time and reflection
- Promoting and enhancing thoughts and spiritual ideas through displays and activities
- Using artefacts, stories, music, drama, art, speakers and resources to promote awe, wonder and interest.

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

Collective worship can make a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils. Those planning, preparing and leading worship consider the following ways in which worship can make such a contribution: ~

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

- Encouraging children 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

## **Visits and visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School ensures that visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship which promote positive attitudes about diversity.

Through visits to places of worship, children are given an opportunity to discover, experience and reflect on their own religion and beliefs but also on those of others. They are able to see, touch and discover sacred artefacts and places, provoking a sense of awe and wonder. Through these experiences, children develop their use of correct terminology and they gain a deeper understanding and respect for others in our diverse world.

Visitors and Religious Education specialists are also invited to school to share their experiences and knowledge, to educate, motivate and interest children.

## **Parents and Families**

Each class leads acts of worship each year and parents and families are invited into school to enjoy these 'class assemblies'. These assemblies may be a reflection of their class Christian Value, a particular festival or celebration, or a topic of class study. In all cases, the inclusion of a prayer and song maintains a worship element. Parents and families are also invited to join our celebrations such as Harvest, Nativities, Christmas Carol service, Education Sunday and Action for Children Sunday, as well as our monthly family assembly.

## **The Right to Withdraw**

As a Church School, we actively encourage all children to take a full part in our acts of worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from any act of worship on personal religious grounds. In these circumstances, parents would be asked to discuss their views with 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. The prospectus makes it clear to parents about the right to withdraw their child from worship and how to exercise this right.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

## **Monitoring and Review**

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

- Children's evaluations of worship
- Parents'/Family evaluations of worship
- School Chaplain visits
- Worship Committee learning walks

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

The Worship Committee (foundation governors, chaplain, minister, and members of the chapel congregation) evaluate reflection areas and speak to children. They are also invited to be involved in the planning process with class teachers.

This policy is reviewed and evaluated by the Headteacher or Head of School and school governors every three years, or sooner to meet the expectations of current local and national changes.