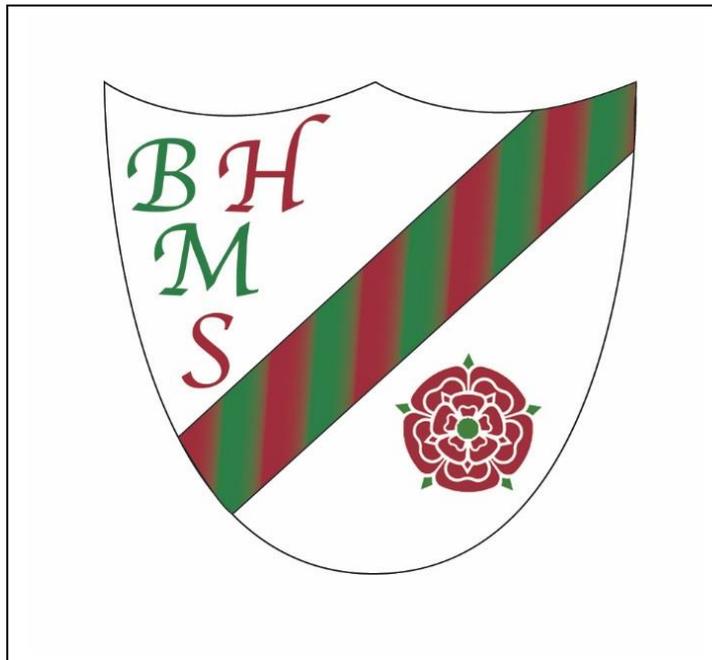


# Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Written by:	Miss L Whittaker
Date agreed:	January 2019
Next Review Date:	January 2022
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

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

- Live out the school vision, at all times and in all places
- Provide opportunities for pupils to be able to consider and reflect on spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Provide pupils with a peaceful environment to enable children to reflect and pray.
- Encourage and invite pupils to actively participate in, listen to and evaluate worship.
- Develop a spirit of community: for pupils to want to love and serve others and have an awareness of their local community
- Promote the work of John Wesley and encourage children and staff to also see the world as their parish
- Help children discover the place for them, and for others, in the world and acknowledge that the world is diverse, and special because of this.
- Provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Establish, explore, and reinforce the Christian values of the school community which are love, teamwork, thankfulness, generosity, peace, forgiveness, equality and justice.
- Foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through sharing experiences and feelings.
- Develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- Provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- Provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local 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.’

### **Definition of collective worship**

For the purpose of this policy, ‘Collective worship’ is an act of 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 headteacher. A programme of weekly themes is identified for each term, which include the celebration of key Christian festivals, values focus and the recognition of other important events and celebrations, including those from other faiths. (See annual and termly worship plan for more details)

Acts of worship will be held from 9.00am – 9.20am in the school hall, chapel or classrooms. Worship begins by children entering the hall quietly and calmly and candles, representing the Holy Trinity are lit. A piece of music will be playing. Children will sing 1 or 2 songs, linked to the theme where possible. A key message will be shared through stories, drama, and other activities. There will an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

All acts of worship whether an act of worship or collective worship will be planned to ensure that learning is explored so pupils are able to reflect on and apply it to their lives inside and outside of school.

When planning collective worship we are aware of our Methodist foundation and this contributes to the assembly provision which is appropriate to the children's age and experience.

School sometimes will invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during acts of worship or collective worship in accordance with the timetabled theme.

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.
- Celebrating through traditional and modern songs that are Christian in nature and reflect our Christian values.
- Active participation of children.

The current structure of collective worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Worship – Headteacher (or in her absence a member of SLT) or Class Worship and Reflection
Tuesday	Chapel Worship or Worship Warriors – led by school Chaplain.
Wednesday	Praise Time – led by Music lead. Every other week a key stage will take part in a collective worship focus in class focused on their Christian theme.
Thursday	Family Worship, Class Worship or Whole School Worship - led by headteacher (or in her absence a member of SLT)
Friday	Awards Assembly – a chance for children to share and celebrate their news and successes in and out of school, including attendance. Worship and reflection led by headteacher (or in her absence a member of SLT)-

Once a month Whole School Worship is held in the chapel and is led by the minister, Vivienne Smith or chaplain, Catherine Preece. This is followed by collective workshop sessions in classes (every class visited over the half term) focused on their class Christian value.

On the last Thursday of each month, we hold our Family Worship for 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.

Once a week, a group of children, Worship Warriors, 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**

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, John Wesley's prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

At the beginning of lunchtime, and at the end of the day, a prayer is said by either an adult, child or collectively in each class.

Each class has a reflection area in class, there is a theme for the whole year focused on a Christian value and invitational activities are prepared. More about our reflection areas can be found in the RE Policy. Children are able to use this space for their own personal prayer and reflection, as and when the need arises.

## **Involving Children**

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 are encouraged to share their prayers through the prayer space. These may be used as a part of an act of worship, with individuals given the opportunity to lead prayer.

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 are encouraged to take part in prayer during worship and 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 should 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 School ensures that appropriate 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.

Visitors to the school are welcomed 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 Messy Church, 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. Staff or pupils have the right to withdraw from acts of worship. The prospectus makes it clear to parents about the right to withdraw their child from worship.

This right is also applicable to staff, although we would expect all staff to be supportive of the Christian ethos of the school.

## **Equal Opportunities and Special Needs**

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
- Worship Committee's evaluation of worship
- Governors' evaluation of worship
- Parents'/Family evaluations of worship
- School Chaplain visits

The worship plan is evaluated and reviewed annually by the Headteacher and members of 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 and school governors every three years, or sooner to meet the expectations of current local and national changes.