

Bredenbury Primary School
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
September 2019

Signed and dated:
Chair of Governors
Headteacher

This Policy is STATUTORY

The expectation is that school worship will be inclusive, participative, challenging and educational, drawing on a wide range of religious traditions without compromising the religious or non-religious backgrounds of pupils (and staff), whilst giving those for whom it is appropriate the opportunity to worship God. This is possible because the legislation allows for a considerable degree of flexibility.

The Collective Worship Policy at Bredenbury Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

At Bredenbury Primary School Collective Worship gives us the opportunity to collect together and to meet together. It is a collection of differences – different faiths, different cultures, different ages and different backgrounds. It is a focal point of the day in any school community where all ages can/might meet one another, share together and establish a shared sense of identity.

Consultation with governors in:	June 2013
Ratified by governors on:	3.7.2013
Changes made in:	September 2019
To be reviewed by staff in:	October 2022
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AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship in Bredenbury Primary School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day;
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils;
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of Governors.

Therefore, at Bredenbury Primary School our Collective Worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of Collective Worship must comply with this; just the majority so we can include material from other religions and non-religious world views.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE CURRICULUM

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Bredenbury Primary School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive. Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils'

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spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level

THE MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the Governing Body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. The Headteacher draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. The Headteacher observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

LEADERSHIP

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

PLANNING ACTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The content of all acts of Collective Worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly planning and recording sheets enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship.

Visitors are welcomed to lead Collective Worship and are given guidance on our Collective Worship Policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

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THE ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Staff make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies e.g. music, silence etc. we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

WITHDRAWAL

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. At Bredenbury Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff (and students in the sixth form) are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. Parents wishing their child to abstain from collective worship should make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Headteacher, as stated in our Admissions policy. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate.

We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

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Those pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Bredenbury Primary School. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Governing Body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for collective worship;
- A daily act of collective worship is provided;
- Alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the collective worship.

All staff are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

The **Governing Body** will consider before approving the arrangements for collective worship.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The curriculum committee will receive a report from the headteacher annually on the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the school's aims and values.

The Headteacher will also report on the numbers withdrawn and the effectiveness of the alternative arrangements. Parents and staff will be consulted about the impact of collective worship on pupil.

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We evaluate the effectiveness of assemblies and record this in the appropriate file. Staff use several strategies for assessing individual outcomes of collective worship. They include:

- Observation of levels of interest shown during worship
- Classroom feedback from pupils
- Parents comments
- Observation of children's behaviour towards each other around the school