Collective Worship Policy

Date	Reviewed by	Agreed by governors	Next due for review
October 2022	Sally Cross	October 2022	October 2024
October 2024	Sally Cross	July 2025	October 2026
September 2026	Kelly Butt	September 2026	September 2028

BEDS-created

Non-statutory

2-year review cycle

Believe to achieve! "Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong." Eph 3:17

Values: Friendship, Respect, Trust, Courage, Perseverance, Thankfulness

Brinkworth Earl Danby's is committed to providing a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment in which EVERYONE is valued; spiritual growth is nurtured and potential maximised. We believe as a community that each child can reach their vocational potential. We believe each child is of unique worth made in the image of God. We believe in each child being the best that they can be and finding their place in the world. We believe in: a child's potential; being part of a community; being the best you can be.

In partnership with parents/carers, we aim to:

- create a happy, caring atmosphere in which each child feels secure and valued within an environment which is stimulating and attractive
- meet each child's needs physically, creatively, intellectually, emotionally and socially
- educate children about a diverse society and world to promote understanding and positive attitudes
- help the child acquire a set of moral and spiritual values that reflect our designation as a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- inspire each child to be an enthusiastic learner and develop capabilities and attributes that 'build learning power'
- enable pupils to become confident and responsible citizens

Our ethos underpins our unique culture and behaviour in our Church of England School. Our children are at the centre of every decision made. We always ask 'of what benefit will this be for our children? Will this help support them to be the best they can be?' We go the extra mile. Whether it is staff, parents, children, governors or community members, we choose to make that extra effort for a better outcome for individuals and for our school community.

This policy is written with our vision, values, ethos, and aims at its heart.

Collective Worship Policy

School Statement on Collective Worship

In Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different, and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.
However, in Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School the purpose of collective worship will be to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant. Worship in Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

The right of Withdrawal

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

In Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School there are some children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;

- The practical implications of withdrawal;
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school;
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply. (*This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)*

Guiding Principles

Collective Worship in Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Our Actions

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. We also have services at our local church, St Michael and All Angels in Brinkworth.
In each Hall, we have a Worship table on which are 3 candles (The Trinity), a Bible (tells us about Jesus), a Cross (Jesus died for us on the cross) and a family surrounded by pebbles (we are 1 family).

Day	Time		Style	Leader	Venue
	Upper site KS2	Lower site FS & KS1			
Monday	8:45am	2:40pm	Bible Story	Head teacher	Halls/altar space
Tuesday	Values based picture book linked to Monday		Class Worship	Class teachers	Classrooms
Wednesday	8:45am	2:40pm	Worship values and British values linked	SLT	Halls
Thursday	8:45am	2:40pm	Worship through song	Class teacher	Halls
Friday	8:45am	2:40pm	Celebration assembly	Head teacher	Halls

We start our collective worship with the liturgy:
Leader: We light this candle in the name of…
Children: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
(The candles are lit.)

The alter cloth is referred to in the liturgical calendar.
We recognise: The holy trinity, the cross – as Jesus gave his life for us, The Bible to teach us the word of the Lord, our school family.

We end our collective worship with the liturgy:
Leader: We have been thinking about the value of …
Now go out into God's world.
Children: I will show….
(The candle is blown out.)

Planning

- We think carefully about the age appropriateness of the content and delivery of collective worship and are mindful that in whole school worship there are children from EYFS (age 4) to Year 6 (age 10 and 11)
- Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on one of the 6 Christian values we as a school have chosen: friendship; trust; respect; courage; perseverance; compassion. Those leading worship are relate their worship to this theme.
- On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.
- All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.
- We often reflect festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worships reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school and Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored, allowing for spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection.
- We conduct collective worships in a dignified and respectful way. Collective worship time can be a period of calm reflection. We also use a range and variety of materials in collective worship,

including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, and focal points e.g. pictures or candles.

- We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We may ask to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Leadership

- The Head teacher and other members of staff lead collective worship. Our local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are also invited to lead worship at school as and when they come into school. Pupils lead our worships too, leading prayers, songs and worship, planned by themselves each term.
- Collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Brinkworth Earl Danby's School is a successful school, and we celebrate the successes of all the children in worship time.
- We welcome governor attendance at our assemblies at any time to join with our worship and to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Maria Pocock.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The termly planning for collective worship is kept in a file overseen by the Head Teacher. Evaluation and the impact of worship takes place with the Worship Council.

Links to Other Policies and Documentation

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice.