

St Matthew's Bloxam Church of England (VC) Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

June 2023

Let Your Light Shine

“In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven”

Matthew Chapter 5 Verse 16

We aim for forgiveness and reconciliation in safe surroundings. We seek experiences to spark confidence to nurture and show delight. We want to illuminate hopes, dreams and aspirations and to build humanity through relationships inspired by the glow of others. We value everyone through thoughts and actions.

The legal requirements of collective worship at SMB

St Matthew's Bloxam is a Voluntary Controlled (VC) Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, we have a Trust Deed, which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'. Acts of worship in Church schools must be broadly Christian in character and based on Biblical teachings.

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of forgiveness, love, hope, friendship and respect and celebrates the role that each child has to play in their community. Through a positive, caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every member of the school community to reach their full potential including having a rich experience and understanding of Christianity.

In accordance with the law for all Church schools, at St Matthew's Bloxam, we hold a daily act of collective worship, which is of a broadly Christian character, and makes an important contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Our worship reflects the traditions of the Christian belief and follows the liturgical cycle of the Church's year.

Aims

Inclusive

To encourage a sense of unity and identity engaging all members of the school community to have the opportunity to think and ask questions.

Invitational

To provide the opportunity to engage, whilst allowing those of different faith and no faith to be present and engage with integrity (warm fire and open door)

Inspiring

To enable members of the school community to ask big questions, motivate to act and reflect more widely on behaviour and actions

Objectives

- ❖ Children and adults are able to explore the school vision, reflecting on Christian values and developing virtues, which reflect in their character and academic progress
- ❖ Children and adults can appreciate the relevance of faith through the teachings of Jesus and understand the Trinitarian nature of God.
- ❖ Children and adults have opportunities to grow spiritually and develop their own spiritual pathways, through the provision of a variety of forms of worship
- ❖ Big questions are asked, which enable members of the school community to develop curiosity and explore spiritual and ethical issues
- ❖ Children have the opportunity to work alongside adults to plan and lead collective worship.

Provision

A daily act of collective worship takes place at St Matthew's Bloxam. Senior leaders, staff, clergy, invited visitors and children lead acts of worship.

The time for acts of worship is between 15-20 minutes a day.

Whole school worship takes place in the upstairs or downstairs hall. To create an atmosphere of special time we have:

- ✚ A worship table with a cloth to match the liturgical colour of the church calendar
- ✚ A cross
- ✚ Three candles to represent the Holy Trinity
- ✚ A Bible
- ✚ Music playing relating to the value of the term
- ✚ PowerPoint presentations with pictures, special phrases or questions

The pattern of worship follows the Root and Fruits approach;

Welcome	Gathering
Light three candles	
Shout "Let your light shine!"	
Pray The Lord's Prayer	
Learning	Engaging
Reflecting	
Responding	Responding
Pray the Blessing for our school	Sending out

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of worship but are urged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher before making a decision to do so.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of our school. Part of it can be concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life. It is of utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

Our four-year plan focuses on one or two values each term and incorporates the five core school values (highlighted in green).

Term	Year A 2021-2022	Year B 2022-2023	Year C 2023-2024	Year D 2024-2025
Autumn	Perseverance (Hope)	Compassion (Love)	Friendship	Respect (Dignity)
	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
Spring	Thankfulness (Joy)	Truthfulness	Justice	Generosity
	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation	Easter Lent – Reconciliation
Summer	Courage	Trust (Wisdom)	Service	Forgiveness (Peace)

Other types of worship

Each class leads collective worship four times a year. Three are each term to celebrate their achievements in school – focusing on the value of the term. In addition, one worship a year with a common focus. This may be subject specific e.g. art or music, topic related to display their learning, based on important Christian figures in history, or Global Neighbours themes (change year on year). Parents and carers are invited to class worship and after which, they have the opportunity to visit the classroom to see the children's work and speak to the teachers.

For major festivals in the Christian calendar, we worship at St Oswald's church – Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Our 'normal' weekly pattern of collect worship is as follows:

Monday	9.00/9.15am	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Open the Book
Tuesday	9.00am	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Open the Book
Wednesday	9.00am	Whole school worship led by a member of staff/clergy
Thursday	9.00am	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher/Open the Book
Friday	9.00am	Celebration/class assembly led by class teacher– parents invited

Pupil involvement in planning worship

The Worship Group and ICONS ambassadors are responsible for planning services held in church for the major Christian festivals. They make it interactive and fun.

Monitoring and evaluating worship

All leaders of worship evaluate their practice continuously by asking those present for feedback on what went well and what could be further developed.

Parent feedback is sought through questionnaires and asking for written comments.

Governors monitor collective worship using the monitoring proforma used for all monitoring visits.

Links to other policies

Spirituality policy

Behaviour policy

PSHE/RSHE policy

The SIAMS committee and full governing body will review this policy every 2 years.

Next review – Summer 2026