



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust  
*'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'*

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Blandford St. Mary  
CE Primary School

Policy Date: January 2025

Review Date: January 2027

The Governing Body of Blandford St Mary CE Primary School is committed to promoting equality and diversity. By recognising and appreciating individual needs and differences the school will be broadly representative of the communities it serves, and be a place where children and staff will thrive – physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. This will be achieved by implementing equal opportunities and diversity practice across the three dimensions of the School's activity: as an employer; an educator; and a resource of the local community.

Blandford St Mary CE Primary school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. 'Knowing we are loved, we learn and grow to be the best that we can be'.

Our vision statement is at the core of everything we do. It underpins our teaching and learning, and provides an environment which prepares our children as confident, happy citizens. Our vision is underpinned by the following 1 Corinthians 16:14 verse: 'Let all that you do be done in love'

Our school values underpin our school Christian ethos, our rewards system, and are the basis for our collective worship and are focused on in our decision making and conversations with the children. Our values are: Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance and Responsibility.

We aim to create a safe and secure school family, deeply rooted in the Christian Faith, where all adults and children flourish, side by side as learners and people, to be the best that we can be. We also aim to develop confident learners who have a passion and curiosity for learning and a sense of pride in their own achievements and the achievements of others.

Our mission is to provide the highest quality teaching and learning for all our children, where every individual is cherished within our school family and know that they are loved unconditionally, where diversity is celebrated and opportunities for all are constantly sought.

**Policy Statement:**

At Blandford St Mary CofE School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

In Blandford St Mary CofE School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and biblical foundation. 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 of our school community may be different and collective worship in our school takes into account the varied circumstances of staff and children.

Through Collective Worship, children 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 (and other faiths) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually, using the model of the 'window, mirrors door and candle' moments.

Children will also be given the opportunity to visit their local parish church, Blandford St Mary, during their time in KS1 and will leave KS2 knowing the Lord's Prayer.

The school has its own school prayer created by the children themselves and this is intrinsically linked to the schools vision and values:

Father God,  
We ask You to bless our school and keep us safe.  
Be with us as we live, and learn, and grow together.  
Help us to know and reflect Your love,  
to respect others and to take our responsibilities seriously.  
Amen.

**Introduction:**

*‘Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.’ Article 14 UNCRC.*

As a Church of England School, we welcome our responsibility of ensuring that our worship is consistent with the Faith and practice of the Church of England as stated in the Trust Deeds of the School.

As a Church school we believe that Collective Worship should be an opportunity for all members of our school community to come together to worship God and to experience in words, music and silence, a sense of belonging and an appreciation of common values.

It is a time to celebrate all aspects of school life and an opportunity for stillness and reflection within a busy, active day for our children.

**Our school aims for Collective Worship:**

**At Blandford St Mary we aim to:**

- Re-affirm and practice the Vision and Values of our school;
- Deepen and widen a child's emotional response stimulating reflection and spiritual growth within the school;
- Develop children's knowledge and understanding of the Anglican tradition and special occasions such as Christian Festivals;
- Celebrate achievements of the school and its members.
- Strengthen and support the School Community;
- Develop a sense of belonging, sharing, caring and responsibility.

**We offer our children the opportunity to:**

- Praise and reach out to God;
- Experience stillness and quietness;
- Consider the importance God may have in their lives;
- Reflect, respond and have reverence for things which are of worth and which have great meaning in people's lives;
- Consider and respect the importance of prayer;
- Consider and respect the relevance of worship in everyday life;
- Develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs, and values of others, which differ from their own, regardless of age, gender, race or culture;
- Prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they will encounter in life;
- Lay the foundations on which to base a mature understanding and practice of Christian values in the future.

### **Our approach:**

**Our worships are pupil-centred, related to children's own experience and concerns.**

**We:-**

- Celebrate Christian beliefs and values;
- Prepare an environment conducive to worship and reflection – through music as children congregate, providing an altar with candle and cross as a focus, and a station for reflection displaying thoughts and work around the theme.
- Provide opportunities for children to respond through song, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion;
- Use language appropriate for the ages, abilities and background of our children.
- Promote understanding and feelings of awe and wonder, delight, love and compassion towards the world and other people;
- Ensure that all children feel valued and special;
- Renew values and help the children to find a sense of belonging.

### **Content and prayer:**

Collective Worship themes are drawn from the 'Root and Fruits' and 'Values for life' resources which have been designed to support schools in the teaching of Christian values. Eighteen values have been selected- Courage, Trust, Creativity, Justice, Forgiveness, Peace, Humility, Truth, Thankfulness, Compassion, Hope, Friendship, Generosity, Respect and Reverence, Wisdom, Service, Perseverance, Responsibility. One value is explored each half term.

These values are timetabled into a 3 year cycle and are directly linked to the schools 5 core values of Love, Hope, Respect, Responsibility and Perseverance.

Worships also reflect the Church year and cycle of Christian Festivals; Acts of Collective Worship are regularly linked, issues within the community and the World. School council or outside speakers are invited wherever appropriate.

All Collective Worship Themes include;

- Learning about Religion and Human Experience – a body of knowledge focused on the Christian Faith - the ways in which religious communities express their belief, behaviour and values.
- Learning from Religion and Human Experience – concerned with children's personal feelings, relationships, experiences, questions and responses to life.

These two dimensions link with the Religious Education Policy of the school and the curriculum links within each class. The themes teach the children to reflect on serious affairs and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities.

At Blandford St Mary there is much for which to be thankful, much to praise, much to hope for and request. These elements are central to our prayers.

### **Collective Worship timetable**

<b>Mon</b>	8:55 – 9.15am	Whole school worship
<b>Tue</b>	2.50 – 3.10pm	Class worship
<b>Wed</b>	2.50 – 3.10pm	Whole school singing worship
<b>Thu</b>	2.50 – 3.10pm	Whole School worship or Open the Book
<b>Fri</b>	2:40 – 3:10pm	Whole School Celebration worship

### **The Community**

We have close links with Blandford St Mary Parish Church. Reverend Carolyn Couzens is on our governing board and regularly leads services in school. The school shares in the Parish services of Harvest, Christmas and other key liturgical events.

### **Legal Status**

The policy for the Collective Act of Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in consultation with the headteacher. The governors recognise the legal requirement for a daily act of Collective Worship and accept the requirement for church schools to offer worship which is in full accordance with the schools Trust Deed in that it is 'consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'.

### **The Law**

Parents have the rights of withdrawing their children from collective worship, according to the 1944 Education Act. In such cases the school liaises with the parents to provide other appropriate activities for the children to do at this time.

All staff recognise the importance of attending all whole school acts of Collective Worship; however equally, they have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.