

**Peterborough Diocese Education Trust**

**Barby Church of England Primary School**



# Collective Worship Policy

**Committee Approved:**

**Date:**

**Reviewed:**

**Reviewed:**

## **Barby C E Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

Our vision statement states that the aims of the school are to achieve the highest possible standards by ensuring that all pupils fulfil every aspect of their potential across a broad and balanced curriculum and to educate those pupils in social, cultural, moral and spiritual values within a Christian environment.

We are a church school within the family of schools in the Peterborough Diocese Education Trust.

#### **Aims and purpose**

- The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:
- Provide a meaningful opportunity for the staff and children to worship
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- Respect individuality and celebrate diversity
- Develop a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- Teach children how to worship
- Provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, the local and international community, as well as occasions of significance including festivals
- Provoke thought about the feelings and conditions of others
- Reflect upon the spiritual dimension of life
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder

#### **Collective Worship**

We understand collective worship to be a special occasion when the school comes together to show respect and reverence to God. Collective worship at Barby CE Primary School is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief but not distinctive of any particular denomination. However we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the acts of worship are broadly Christian, we may also hold assemblies that reflect other faiths and religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Collective worship is distinct from assembly. Collective worship may include prayer, reflection and singing, whilst an assembly is a gathering of the whole school community to celebrate achievement, festivals and birthdays as well as an opportunity to understand school rules and values. However, assembly and collective worship at our school often take place together and are generally called 'assembly'.

There is a daily act of worship which may be for the whole school, a Key Stage or a class and the programme at present is as follows:

Monday	- Whole school collective worship following a theme. Head Teacher.
Tuesday	- Key stage collective worship.
Wednesday	- Reverend. Or singing
Thursday	- Class assemblies.
Friday	- Whole school assembly, family celebration, awards and house points. Head Teacher

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We treat it as a special time for quiet reflection, expecting children to behave accordingly. The children are expected to be thoughtful and listen carefully to the teachings, participate fully in prayers and in the singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by having music, a candle and a cross which form the focal point for the attention of the children. The children take turns to light the candle, starting the school year with the oldest child in school.

Parents are encouraged to attend appropriate assemblies and this is part of our inclusive ethos. This is an example of how the school works with our families to support and encourage the children.

There is a Star of the Week in each class and house point certificates are given. These reflect the fact that Barby CE Primary School is a successful school where our children are valued and all achievements are celebrated.

We welcome visitors to our assemblies, from the Bishop's Vicar, the Youth for Christ group, people promoting safety and musicians. Celebrations of special festivals or occasions may take place in the village church.

Whole school events include Harvest Festival in October, a Christmas nativity and play, an Easter service and a Leavers' service in July. Parents and Governors are invited to all of these events.

The Head teacher decides on the themes of the Monday assemblies, unless these are the Values assemblies, when children and their families will be included in choosing the values which we promote. Children are encouraged to participate in assemblies, by creating their own or by joining in with role-play or drama and their views are sought through questionnaires.

Children are taught to be respectful during prayers; to close their eyes to concentrate on the words, to keep their hands still, to join in if they know the words, to make appropriate responses should they be required and to share the Amen at the end.

Class prayers at the end of the day and grace at lunchtime are part of class routine and are the responsibility of the class teachers.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Notification should be sent to the Head teacher in writing and alternative arrangements will be made by the class teacher for supervision during the period concerned.

### Approval Authorisation

Authorised By	
Head Teacher:	Signature: ..... Print: ..... Date: .....
Chair of Governors:	Signature: ..... Print: ..... Date: .....