



Collective Worship Policy

Bramley Church of England Infant and Nursery School

"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119(105)
Rooted in Christian values, seek within, wonder why, reach out, aim high.

Policy effective from June 2022

Approved by Full Governing Board

Last reviewed on February 2025

Next review due by February 2029

Version history

Version	Description of change	Author	Approved
3.0	Renewal due	Naomi Strickland	Head of School
2.0	Reformatted and language standardised.	Shona Taylor	Full Governing Board,
1.0	Original version.	Elaine Spick	Full Governing Board, June 2018

Rationale

Bramley Church of England Infant and Nursery School (the School), as a Church of England school, provides a unique opportunity to introduce children to the wide tradition of Christian worship. An act of worship in a church school is an experience devised as a response to God. It is based on specific traditional Christian beliefs linked to the School's Vision and Values.

“Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path” Psalms 119 (105)

Rooted in Christian Values:

**Seek within
Wonder why
Reach out
Aim high**

Within the School an Act of Collective Worship gives children an experience of Christian worship.

Collective Worship introduces the children to the variety and styles, context, language and rituals of worship. It establishes and reinforces the ethos of the School and places all children learning within God's world. It provides an opportunity to develop a variety of attitudes, which include; *wonder, reverence, compassion, curiosity, commitment, reflection, self-awareness and empathy.*

Introduction

Recognising its historic foundation, the School aims to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice fulfilling the deed of trust that the School serves the poor of the parish.

The School encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all its pupils.

Aims and Purpose

Worship is one of the means whereby the School's Christian vision and values may be reflected and affirmed. It fosters a sense of awe, mystery and wonder, and offers pupils opportunities to make sense of the world and their experience. It encourages a sense of personal and community identity and is an expression of the relationship between God and the individual.

Collective worship involves all members of the School coming together in support of its aims. It permeates and underpins the life of the School; in assemblies, in class learning, at church services and through other activities and events.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- To provide an opportunity to worship God.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To explore belief.
- To develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others.
- To encourage participation, reflection and response.
- To develop a sense of community spirit.
- To express the School's ethos and reinforce positive attitudes.

Format of Act of Worship

- Acts of Worship are held each day for 15 minutes.
- Children enter the Hall quietly and sit, sometimes music may be playing.
- Children are given the opportunity to reflect at this time.
- The elements of worship used are music, prayers, bible readings, stories, reflection and silence.

The focus of the collective worship will be to develop Christian Values and Spirituality and themes will be linked to the value for that half term and other relevant topics. The Christian values will be displayed on the entrance board and in the hall and classrooms. Collective worship links the values to the Bible and included on the displays will be examples of how Jesus/God show each value.

The School will create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a cross, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The Anglican foundation of the School will be reflected in its Worship. Themes will relate to the cycle of the Church's year and to events of personal, social or national significance. The Bible will be used as a source of knowledge and inspiration. A coloured cloth used on the table will mirror that of the correct alter cloth and reflect the time in the church calendar.

Traditional prayers will be learnt and used, as well as personal more spontaneous ones. Children will be encouraged to take part in, and lead prayers. Hymns will be mostly modern with language appropriate to the age of the children, but some traditional ones will be learnt to facilitate participation in church services. Worship will be led by staff, by clergy from parish churches or a representative in their absence.

On Fridays members from the 'Open the Book' team will lead the Collective Worship, which is based on Bible stories.

The School will invite parents to join the School in worship regularly, when appropriate. During key festivals the School may choose to worship in the parish church. The School welcomes Local Committee attendance at its worships at any time.

Acts of Worship at Bramley Church of England Aided Infant and Nursery School

Main Elements:

Entrance – children come in quietly and sit down.
Focus, Music, Singing, Story, Prayer, and Reflection – the order of these may vary

Celebration: Achievements

Exit: Children leave the Hall in classes

In addition, the children say prayers in class:

- At lunchtime
- At home time

The School's assemblies and all gatherings for collective worship will promote the following behaviours:

- Empathy with others.
- Appreciation of the beauty of the world.
- Following values and be willing to stand up for what is right.
- Caring for yourself and others and finding inner strength and resilience when faced with challenges.
- Being still and silent and open to reflect and pray.
- Being intrigued by mystery.
- Forgiving yourself and others.
- Taking risks and learn from success and failure.
- Being thankful for what is good in life.
- Showing generosity towards others.
- Being curious and open-minded when exploring life's big questions.
- Being intrigued and questioning.

Right of withdrawal

The School expects all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and Collective Worship Policy Summer 2019 Page 4 was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

As a Church of England Aided School, the Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility for monitoring collective worship, alongside the Children and Learning (C&L) Committee.

This policy should be read alongside all school policies but relates especially to the following policies and documents:

- <http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk> "God at the Centre" - guidelines for collective worship
- Learning and Teaching Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Bramley C of E Infant and Nursery School Vision and Values
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy
- RSHE Policy