



Burford Primary School  
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## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### 1.0 Introduction

In accordance with the 1944 Education Act and 1988 Education Reform Act, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development and must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.0 Purpose of Collective Worship

At Burford Primary School we believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens all aspects of school life. We value this special time in the school day for the space it provides for children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections. Additionally, it is a time when school comes together to celebrate shared beliefs, values and successes and can relate to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

### 3.0 Aims

We aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department for Education and Science Circular 1/94 states that this may take place at any time of the school day.

In addition we aim to:

- provide a caring and supporting environment for children to develop spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually
- promote a common ethos with shared values that contribute to individual, school and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship
- develop in children a sense of community, within school, the local community and beyond
- reinforce positive attitudes and respect
- celebrate differences and similarities and to encourage respect for cultures different from our own
- provide opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christianity and that of other faiths through stories, events and festivals and appreciate how these might affect their lives
- encourage children to think and to question, and to develop a moral code
- create an atmosphere where worship and reflection can take place
- offer experiences and opportunities for children to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship, in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs

#### **4.0 Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold daily collective worship in our school, which is usually whole school, but can sometimes take place within classes<sup>2</sup>:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Person Leading</b>
Monday	Head Teacher/Visitor
Tuesday	Head Teacher/Visitor
Wednesday	'Open the Book' – Curate/Youth Worker and team from Burford Church
Thursday	'Gold Book' Celebration (parents invited) Head Teacher/Class Teacher (alternate weeks)
Friday	Class Teacher

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<sup>2</sup> 1988 Education Reform Act

## **5.0 Right of Withdrawal**

At Burford Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community and expect that all children attend daily collective worship. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.<sup>3</sup>

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from collective worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from collective worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, must maintain statutory accountability for collective worship.

## **6.0 Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the head teacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The policy will be reviewed by the head teacher, in consultation with staff and governors, through the Learning and Teaching Committee.

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### **APPROVED BY:**

**Chair of Governors: Zoey Khan**

**Date: 2 December 2014**

**Review every 3 years**

**Review date: December 2017**

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<sup>3</sup> This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was reinstated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.