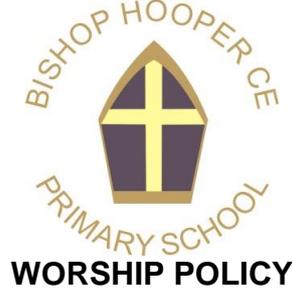


BISHOP HOOPER C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



Worship

Worship is a gathering of children and staff which seeks to explore or respond to:

- (a) the relationship between humans and God;
- (b) the spiritual aspect to life, and how this impacts on daily living;
- (c) deeply held Christian beliefs and values;

through a range of activities.

Principles of Collective Worship

There is a need to:

- Gain the agreement and moral support from all the staff in the purposes and approaches to be used.
- Recognise that the school provides a variety of opportunities for worship: it does not provide worship.
- Respect the autonomy of all staff and pupils. Acts of worship should not be presented in a way that is insensitive or inappropriate. Those taking the act of worship must not assume that all people in the room are committed or practising believers.
- Recognise that prayers can be used by someone without a religious faith, but they should be used in a way that gives them an educational rather than a religious emphasis.
- Recognise that an act of worship can be identifiably Christian in tone without necessarily mentioning Jesus. "However if the worship consistently avoids reference to Jesus within the spoken or written word then it could not reasonably be defined as mainly Christian" Ofsted handbook page 92.
- Engender a sense of occasion. Pupils should come to regard the opportunity as a special time in the school day.
- Recognise that Collective Worship can make a valuable contribution to helping to meet the requirements of the agreed syllabus for RE
- Be aware that the basis of Collective Worship should also be educational. It should be consistent with the good practices found elsewhere in the school.
- Recognise that Collective Worship must be approached from an 'inclusive' stand point. All should be able to participate, contribute and benefit.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of worship for all children. This can take place at any time during the school day. It can be either a single act of worship for all children or separate acts of worship for different school groups.

Organisation Content and delivery

- The act of daily worship may take place at different times of the day, usually as a whole school in the school hall but may also take place in classrooms. To give this activity a sense of occasion a candle is lit to indicate the start of the worship and distinguish it from assembly. The extinguishing of the candle indicates the end of the worship. The worship may start and/or end with a piece of music.
- One act of worship each week is class based to enable pupils to explore issues in more depth, at a level appropriate to their age group.
- Different members of staff lead acts of worship throughout the week; Friday's worship is a celebratory act of worship, incorporating our 'Bishop Hooper Stars' for that week.
- Worship may also take place outdoors or in Ashford or Caynham Churches as appropriate.
- Worship at Bishop Hooper School provides opportunities for participation in a range of activities which enable children to express their spirituality e.g. through story, music, dance, drama, questioning, prayer, purposeful silence and reflection.

Links with the Local Community, Parish, Clergy, Parents and Governors.

The school uses St. Mary's Church, Caynham and St.Mary Magdalene at Ashford Carbonnel, for more formal acts of worship such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, Easter, a Communion Service and The Leavers' Service at Hereford Cathedral. The parents, governors, Butterflies Pre-School and local community are invited to these events.

Our local incumbent, Rev. Kelvin Price, also visits the school every two weeks and plays an active part in both worship and Religious Education within school. Local members from the 'Open the Book' team also lead worship every two weeks, as does Pat Storey, a volunteer from the local church community. At our school we believe that no single denomination has a perfect style of worship or teaching that suits all people. Therefore, we use as much as possible involvement from local Established Churches to lead within our corporate worship. This is overseen and planned by both the school Vicar/Governor and Head.

Guidance for Staff and Visitors who lead Worship.

We welcome visitors to share and/or lead our acts of worship. Visitors and staff who lead Worship at Bishop Hooper School will be given a copy of this policy, or verbally briefed as to the content prior to their leading the worship.

Prayers

- Pupils and staff should be invited to join in a prayer, or invited to join in with 'Amen' at the end, if they agree with what has been said.
- At the start of worship, pupils have decided which important words they would like to say as each item is placed on the worship table e.g. as the prayer candles are lit we say "Let the flame burn in our hearts forever".
- We have a different focus for worship each month, based around our twelve school values. These are on display in the hall and also promoted in our school newsletter and website.
- Pupils and staff are invited to learn our School Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and a Grace, which are said on a regular basis.
- It is appropriate to ask pupils to close their eyes and think about something.
- Prayer may be silent, a time to reflect on an issue explored during worship.
- At Bishop Hooper school a 'Prayer Tree' is always on display and provides an area where children can go and write prayers whenever they want to. They are written on paper leaves or blossom (depending on the season) and can either be displayed on the tree for others to read, or can be posted in the 'Prayer Box' if it is something more personal or private.

Planning and Record Keeping

- The themes for each term's acts of worship will be decided at the end of the preceding term, with staff and Rev. Kelvin Price working together, to ensure continuity.
- The themes will include Christian festivals, the celebration of other religious and non-religious cyclical events.
- Other themes will be based on issues that reflect the ethos of the school e.g. friendship, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL), or link to other work being done in school.
- A brief record is kept of the nature of each assembly.

Arrangements for Withdrawal

The right to withdraw pupils from worship is available to all parents. If a parent has decided on this option for a pupil at Bishop Hooper School, the child will read quietly in the library area.

Person Responsible	Kerri Phelps/Rev. Kelvin Price
Date policy agreed	May 2011
Date policy reviewed	May 2013, May 2015
Date for next review	May 2017