



# *Barrowby Church of England Primary School*

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **1. Aims and Purpose**

- 1.1 Our aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:
- to provide an invitational opportunity for children to worship God;
  - to provide an opportunity for children to consider the purpose and the meaning of life;
  - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
  - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
  - to encourage participation and response;
  - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
  - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
  - to provide an opportunity for calm reflection.
- 1.2 Barrowby is a Church of England Controlled School in line with our Trust Deed which states *“The daily act of collective worship shall include religious education consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and use should be made, within the provisions of the Education Acts of the time being in force, of the Parish Church, both for occasional acts of worship and for religious education”*.

### **2. Collective Worship**

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves members of the school coming together as a whole school and participating in an assembly.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be *‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’*, we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

### **3. Responsibility**

- 3.1 Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Head Teacher, Foundation Governors and the Subject Leader.

### **4. Entitlement**

- 4.1 We expect all children to participate in assembly. However, parents may request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents are not required to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 Where parents ask to remove children from whole school church services, school will discuss appropriate supervision arrangements with parents.

## 5. Organisation

- 5.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. It will include prayer, Biblical quotes, singing, a quiet reflection and reference to The Holy Trinity. Collective worship may also include music, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings and celebrations.
- 5.2 We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. Our children are aware that worship may be a time of calm reflection. They are also aware that worship encompasses times of excitement and celebration. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 5.3 Collective Worship at Barrowby Church of England Primary School is led by a wide range of individuals, reflecting the richness of our school and wider community. The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, and all members of the teaching staff lead daily acts of worship, ensuring consistency and relevance to the children's experiences and learning.

We are also blessed to welcome regular contributions from local church leaders and visitors who enrich our worship with diverse perspectives and styles. These include Mr Buckeridge from the Bethesda Church, Mr Caunt from Light Space, Rev Sarah Tierney from Barrowby All Saints Church, our Bishop's Visitor Mrs Waghorn, and a dedicated group from Barrowby All Saints Church who lead our Year 1 and 2 pupils in *Open the Book*—an engaging programme that brings Bible stories to life through drama and storytelling.

This variety of leadership helps to deepen pupils' understanding of Christian teachings, supports their spiritual and moral development, and reinforces key messages around British Values and the protected characteristics. It also strengthens our links with the wider faith community and models the inclusive and collaborative ethos we strive to uphold.

- 5.4 Our themes for Collective Worship are rooted in the traditions of the Christian faith and reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. These include key moments such as Advent, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. These moments help children explore key aspects of Christian belief and practice in a way that is accessible and relevant to their lives.

In addition, our worship themes often connect with topics taught across the school curriculum, other religious festivals, and whole-school initiatives. This approach allows us to use Collective Worship as a powerful tool to support pupils' personal development, promote British Values, and explore the protected characteristics in age-appropriate and meaningful ways. Through stories, reflection, prayer, and discussion, children are encouraged to develop respect, empathy, and an understanding of diversity, equality, and inclusion within our school and wider community.

- 5.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play a very important part in promoting the ethos of our school that all children are valued and their achievements recognised.

5.6 At Barrowby Church of England Primary School, we warmly welcome parents and carers to join us in whole-school acts of Collective Worship held throughout the year at Barrowby All Saints Church. Key services such as our Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter celebrations provide meaningful opportunities for families to engage with the spiritual life of the school. These occasions are consistently well attended, reflecting the strong sense of community we nurture and highlighting the vital partnership between home and school in supporting the holistic development and achievements of our children.

5.7 Daily Acts of Worship;

Monday: Whole School: Picture News

Tuesday: Whole School: Themed Act of Worship/Visitors leading Acts of Worship

Wednesday: Whole School: Choral Collective Worship

Thursday: Whole School: Bible stories Act of Worship

Friday: Whole School: Act of Worship and celebration of children's achievements

## 6.0 Annual Events

Whole School Harvest Festival – Parish Church\*

EYFS/KS1 Nativity – School Hall \*

Whole School Christmas Service – Parish Church \*

Whole School Easter Service – Parish Church \*

Whole School Pentecost Service – Parish Church \*

Whole School Leavers' Service – School Hall\*

End of Year Whole School Service – Parish Church

\*Parents are invited to these events.

Barrowby School fosters and nurtures close links with All Saints Church Barrowby. The church is regularly used for whole school services (see links above).

6.1 We also provide opportunities for our Year 6 children to worship with children from other church schools by attending:

- Year 6 Church School Festival at Lincoln Cathedral.

## 7. Collective Worship Policy Review

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors in accordance with Barrowby School's Policy and Review Cycle for approval by the Full Governing Body, every 3 years.

Last reviewed: September 2025

Next review: September 2028