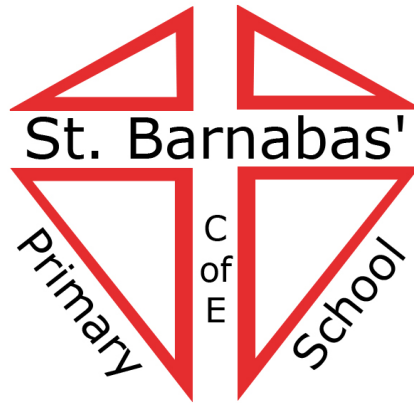


Heaton St. Barnabas' CE (VA) Primary School

Policy For



Worship

This policy was approved by Curriculum Committee

On: 25th November 2025

Signed.....

Position: Chair of Curriculum Committee

Let Your Light Shine

'You are the light of the world, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds'

Introduction

The Staff and Governors of Heaton St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, in accordance with our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship in our school is based upon Christian teaching, however we refer to other key faiths where ever possible. It usually takes place in the context of whole school, key-stage or class assemblies. Material from other world faiths will be used in assemblies where appropriate, and elements which different world faiths hold in common are often used.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the leadership team and teaching staff, a range of visiting church ministers, Imam, outside speakers and also the pupils of the worship team in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character.

We recognise that, although our school has a Christian foundation, our children come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including children from other faith, communities and those who do not share in any particular belief. Whilst the focus of our worship is Christian, we aim to be sensitive to the needs of all our children, and provide opportunities for all to share in worship in a way which makes sense to them and is appropriate to their stage of development.

Collective Worship is central to the life of St Barnabas Primary School. Worship offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision, and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff with the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions;
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship reflects aspects of our curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a Trinitarian theology.

Our collective worship is based in our clear Christian Vision for our school, but also aims to be inclusive of, and respectful to, the majority of our pupils who are of other faiths or none. We achieve this by making worship invitational, and by our careful presentation of stories and ideas in ways in which non-Christian pupils and staff can still relate to.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of collective worship. Appropriate supervision will be provided for children who are withdrawn. The right of withdrawal does not apply to assemblies. Those wishing to exercise this right are requested to discuss arrangements with the Headteacher. The whole school attends St. Barnabas Church at least once each term to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

The Head Teacher and RE co-ordinator, in collaboration with worship team leader produces a half term plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers.

Planning for Collective Worship

Our cycle of collective worship is planned by the Collective Worship leader and Collective Worship Council, but each act is then planned by different people.

Planning for collective worship is centred around our twelve Gospel Values. Each half-term, two values are explicitly explained and promoted. Each of these values is expanded upon with reference each week to a different Biblical text, and a 'Big Question' for pupils and staff to consider. The pattern of Gospel Values is outlined below:

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Respect/Service	Responsibility/Hope	Courage/ Enthusiasm	Kindness & Forgiveness	Honesty/ Happiness	Thankfulness
Community Values	Messages	Hopes & Dreams	Journeys	Choose 2 Be	Memories

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	Where	Main feature of worship	Usually led by:
Monday 9am	Main Hall	Invitation to worship Lighting the candle and response – May the light of God Shine upon us Worship leader remind the pupils and staff of the current Gospel Value This will be expanded upon with a reference to a biblical text or teaching A Big question will then provoke open discussion Reflection Singing and sending away message.	The Head teacher / SLT / Worship team
Tuesday 2.45pm	Main Hall Classrooms	Praise & Achievement Phase 1 & 2 Class Worship Phase 3 & 4 - Golden Box Closing Children's prayer and thanks	Assistant Headteacher or Phase 2 Leader
Wednesday 2.45pm	Main Hall Classrooms	Praise & Achievement Phase 3 & 4 Class Worship Phase 1 & 2 – Golden Box Closing Children's Prayer and thanks	Deputy Headteacher / AHT / Phase 3 Leader
Thursday 9.00am	Main Hall	Themed Worship (St. Barnabas team) or Worship Singing	Visiting speaker or Staff member.
Friday 9.00am	* Class Assembly / School Parliament Worship Assembly	Invitation to worship Lighting the candle and response – May the light of God Shine upon us A Big question will then provoke open discussion Reflection / Singing and sending away message. Class assemblies a celebration and thanksgiving.	Class teachers / Pupil led Head teacher or Deputy Head

* Parents are welcome to attend these acts of Collective Worship

Different groups of pupils from the Worship Team are responsible for preparing the hall for collective worship and deliver worship detailed on the termly timetable.

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

Acts of Worship are planned around a theme which may have a moral or spiritual focus. Stories from the Old and New Testament are used regularly but not exclusively as sources for teaching on spiritual, moral and social issues. Wherever possible we offer opportunities for the worship team to lead worship. The school makes use of Big Start Assemblies, Rhythm of Life and Values for All, recommended materials from the diocese.

Assemblies include sharing of special achievements or work. Children are also encouraged to bring news of particular achievements to share with everybody in assemblies.

The beginning of our act of worship is usually signified by the lighting of a candle on a table which also includes every class entering into worship with their own class candle as a symbol of 'letting their light shine' and invitation to worship.

The main focus of the act of worship is introduced through stories, songs, drama, questioning and short reflective videos. Worship includes a final prayer, short quiet time for reflection and a summary to send pupils on into their school daily lives living out the messages received.

Prayer is always used as part of worship, though children of other faiths are not expected to say Christian prayers, and we are most concerned to allow all children to retain the integrity of their own beliefs without compromise.

All Acts of worship begin with: May the light of God Shine upon us

The act of worship usually finishes with: the school prayer, related prayer or child's prayer. Children are invited to include themselves in the prayer by saying Amen at the end if they wish.

Praise and prayer:

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Daily Worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the beauty of the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the old and New Testament with particular emphasis on core values drawing wherever possible links to other key faiths particularly from the Quran.

Life Application:

Children are given opportunity to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions as well as those of no religious background.

Celebration & Achievement:

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, video clips, drama etc. Class led assemblies are often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community. Use of Picture news to discuss media news and items of discussion. This enables pupils to have a platform to ask questions, raise opinions and be given a neutral environment to share views.

Involvement of Pupils

Our Collective Worship Council is made up of one pupil from Y2 - Y6 classes.

It meets twice a term to evaluate Collective Worship and plan the next half term. When planning the collective worship, it aims to ensure that pupils are actively involved.

Pupils are involved in collective worship in a number of ways:

- In the 'Gathering' at the start of collective worship by placing their class candle and lighting the candle
- By responding to our collective worship liturgies, including our school prayer;
- Through planning the Big Questions to be discussed, via the Collective Worship council;
- By taking part in discussions within classroom collective worship about the Big Questions;
- By presenting, each Thursday, their class' response to the Big Question;
- By leading our school prayer at the end of acts of collective worship;
- By reading, acting or speaking during acts of collective worship.

Family Community:

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment explained through a set of core shared values. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

Worship Areas

Each classroom has a 'Reflection Area' containing a cross, bible, prayer box, candle, collective worship diary. Children are encouraged to leave prayer requests in the prayer boxes to be read out during classroom collective worship. Reflective areas are linked to the Worship timetable themes.

The worship area in each hall contains the same items, when they gather for worship.

St Barnabas Church

The vicar and team of St Barnabas Church takes an active part in the life of our school, including leading Collective Worship 2-3 times per half term in school.

In addition, the whole school meets for of services collective worship in St Barnabas Church at least once per half term. This is usually to celebrate a particular festival or occasion, as outlined below:

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Harvest	Remembrance Day Heaton Graveyard Christingle	Start of Lent	Easter	Pentecost	Trinity Leavers' Service

Equal Opportunities:

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities, sexuality, belief and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, sexuality, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons. Where pupils are withdrawn the Headteacher will discuss reasons with individual parents and encourage them to come along and experience worship first hand before making a final decision.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Collective Worship Leader, the Collective Worship Council, (and termly, the Vicar of St Stephen's Church), meet twice per half term in order to evaluate (and plan) collective worship. Pupils' ideas and issues raised are then fed into the plan for collective worship for the following half term. Ideas for improving Collective Worship are fed back to the Collective Worship Leader and Senior Leaders.

Special Education Needs:

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

Planning:

Collective Worship planning is outlined on a Half Term Plan and includes several features:

- Biblical theme
- Prayer
- Visitors from St.Barnabas Church
- Visitors from other Places of Worship
- Picture News
- Charity for the half term
- School initiative eg Eco, Fair trade initiatives
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God given gifts and talents
- Class led worship where the parents are invited
- Tuesday / Wednesday award celebration and performances with parents
- End of term visit to St.Barnabas Church to celebrate main Christian Festivals
- Highlights of the half term and pupil led praise / thankfulness at the end of the half term.
- Singing Worship around twice a term led by teachers and SLT.

When planning around a theme we try to incorporate materials from other faiths where appropriate, together with common elements from other faiths. Other Christian groups in the community come in to lead acts for worship from time to time. Major Christian festivals are celebrated within our Worship as well as festivals from other faiths at key-points during the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from children in class - written or verbal.
- parents' comments.
- observation by Foundation Governors
- observations of the quality of worship by the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher.

Church / School Prayer meetings

St. Barnabas Church actively supports Worship in school and school services held in church. These are all led by the pupil Worship team. Governors attend services and worship to support, monitor and evaluate. There is a prayer group that meets weekly to pray for school events and arising matters which school staff add into the prayer book as they feel necessary. St Barnabas Church members actively support Hand 2 Mouth Spiritual journeys and attend services delivered by the school. The children also visit St Barnabas and St Pauls' Churches throughout the year in support of their RE learning on places of worship.