



## **Bowdon Church of England School Collective Worship Policy**

*"I have come that they might have life and have it in abundance." John 10:10*

*Bowdon Church School aims to provide a nurturing community and rich curriculum to guide children on life's journey. Fostering a love of learning, cultivating spiritual, social, moral and cultural wellbeing, and strengthening them with a growing trust and knowledge of God.*

*'Loving, learning and growing together'.*

*Love Respect Hope Forgiveness Wisdom Koinonia*

### ***Introduction***

At Bowdon Church of England Primary School, we place Christian worship at the heart of our community. Collective worship reflects our school's distinctive Christian vision and ethos. Our Christian foundation celebrates our core values of Love, Respect, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Koinonia. Through worship, we aim to nurture the spiritual development of our children and staff, enabling us all to flourish individually and as a community. It is a central part of daily school life and provides all pupils and staff with the opportunity to engage with the Christian faith in a way that is invitational, inclusive, and inspiring.

This policy is rooted in the Church of England's vision for education: to offer life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

### ***Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship***

Through our acts of collective worship, we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship God
- Create space for children and adults to establish a personal relationship with Jesus
- Introduce children to Christian stories, values, and traditions
- Encourage children to explore their own beliefs and values in a safe and supportive environment
- Foster a sense of awe, wonder, and reverence
- Strengthen a sense of community, belonging, and shared purpose
- Celebrate the uniqueness and contributions of individuals within the school community
- Encourage reflection on spiritual and moral issues and how they relate to everyday life

## ***Our Core Christian Values***

Worship at Bowdon focusses around our six Christian Values:

### **Love**

We teach that God's love is unconditional and that we should love one another, as God loves us. Worship reflects how we can express love through kindness, compassion, and empathy.

### **Respect**

Through worship, children learn to value the dignity of every person, respecting differences in faith, culture, and background, and treating all with fairness and integrity.

### **Hope**

Our worship points to the hope found in the Christian faith. We reflect on Biblical promises and how hope can sustain and uplift us during times of challenge.

### **Forgiveness**

We teach the importance of seeking and offering forgiveness, as demonstrated in the life and teachings of Jesus. Worship provides opportunities to reflect on grace, reconciliation, and healing.

### **Wisdom**

Worship encourages reflection and discernment, helping children grow in understanding and make thoughtful, wise choices guided by the teachings of Jesus.

### **Koinonia (Fellowship)**

Worship strengthens our sense of belonging and unity. We explore how we are part of a wider community, supporting one another and sharing responsibility for the common good.

## ***Legal Requirements***

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England School, we provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that is consistent with the school's foundation and Christian character. Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Anglican nature in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Worship may take place in a variety of settings including whole school, key stage or class groups, and may be led by staff, clergy, children's' missionary, pupils or visiting speakers.

## ***Organisation and Delivery***

## **Worship at Bowdon is:**

**Inclusive** – respecting and welcoming all children, regardless of faith or belief.

**Invitational** – offering opportunities to engage but never compelling participation.

**Inspiring** – aiming to lift the spirit, encourage reflection, and inspire action.

- **Daily Worship:** Collective worship takes place each school day.
- **Weekly staff & governor prayers:** Led by the Rev. every Wed morning before school
- **Leaders:** Worship is led by a variety of members of the school community including the Head Teacher, staff, pupils, and Clergy & Children's Missionary from St. Mary's Church, Bowdon.
- **Format:** A typical act of worship may include:
  - A greeting using our school liturgy
  - A Bible reading or Christian story
  - Reflection or teaching
  - Music, hymn or song
  - Prayer or time for quiet reflection
  - A blessing
- **Themes:** Worship is based on Christian values, the liturgical calendar and relevant events. Themes are also responsive to the life of the school, the community, and the wider world.

### ***Pupil Involvement and Participation***

Pupils are encouraged to take active roles in worship through drama, music, readings and reflections. We provide opportunities for pupil ambassadors who represent groups such as Growing Faith, Democracy and Courageous Advocacy to help plan, evaluate and lead worship.

### ***Links with St. Mary's Church, Bowdon***

We have strong and active links with our parish church, St. Mary's. Clergy and the Children's Missionary regularly lead worship in school, and pupils visit the church for special services, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Leavers' services. The relationship with the church supports the spiritual life of the school and reinforces our Christian ethos.

### ***Inclusivity and Withdrawal***

Worship is designed to be inclusive and invitational. It is not compulsory for children to pray or sing if they choose not to, but all are expected to attend and respect the experience. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, in line with statutory guidance. We encourage parents considering withdrawal to discuss this with the Headteacher.

### ***Monitoring and Evaluation***

The impact and quality of worship are regularly monitored and evaluated by:

- The Collective Worship coordinator & RE Lead
- Senior leadership
- Governors (especially the Foundation Governors)
- Pupil voice and feedback

Findings are used to enhance future worship provision and ensure it remains meaningful, relevant and impactful.

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