



Doc. Ref: **BerkeleyPrimary-6-002**
Page No.: **1 of 4**
Doc. Date: **Autumn Term 2018**

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Collective Worship

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Verified by	The Governing Body
Approved by	Community and Standards Committee
Review Date	Autumn Term 2021

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Rationale

At Berkeley Primary School, worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school. Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school in the wider community and we believe that the social, moral and spiritual values of pupils should be developed and nurtured through times of collective worship. We believe that the daily act of worship provides an opportunity for thanksgiving, mutual sharing of personal concerns and creates stronger school community ties.

Aims

Staff and governors at Berkeley Primary School believe that collective worship has a vital part to play in the education of children of primary age. Our aims for worship are to;

- Provide an experience of worship, allowing children to respond with their own ideas, values and experiences of Christianity and God
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Provide different opportunities for collective worship, e.g. in class, Key Stages or in whole school assemblies
- Sensitively accommodate others who may be present whilst keeping our approaches child friendly
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- Provide, through staff discussion and ideas from the schools agreed PSHCE units, structured themes to enable the responsible teacher to use the occasion with integrity

Organisation

DAY	TYPE OF WORSHIP	LEADER
Monday	Whole school worship (taken from Values for Life or other appropriate resources)	Head teacher / Deputy head teacher
Tuesday	'Open the Book' church group. Stories told from the Bible retold through song and drama.	Local church group
Wednesday	In class focussing on local and world news and events	Class teacher



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Thursday	Values for life, SMSC and PSHCE topics	Teaching staff
Friday	Celebration assembly	Head teacher / Deputy head teacher

Guidelines

- The essential character of an act of worship should be within a Christian ethos. Where material from other faiths is used, similarities and distinctions will be clearly explained, acknowledged and valued.
 - Elements of story, song, discussion, prayer and quiet reflection will be interwoven carefully enabling a definite link between the act of worship, the work in the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus and the school's learning outcomes for personal development.
 - Through careful planning and recording of the topics covered, common themes can be developed effectively and links made with PSHCE, Values for life, SMSC, British Values and R.E.
 - We recognise the difficulties in handling a wide age/ability range in a whole school situation. However, at Berkeley Primary School, we aim to retain the essential character of 'celebration' through these times. Opportunities for departmental and class meetings enable more specific issues to be covered.
 - At specific times throughout the year, celebrations of worship are held in the local church. Parents, governors and friends are welcome to attend these occasions which usually take place at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
 - All teachers and pupils are encouraged to prepare and present work on a chosen topic in regular WOW! assemblies to which parents are also invited.
 - A community church group, 'Open the Book', will deliver one assembly each week, teaching Christian values through story and drama.
 - All teaching staff will be present with the children during two assemblies each week and on special occasions or celebrations to emphasise the inclusiveness of the school.
 - Careful briefing is necessary for contributions from visitors; this must be arranged sensitively if visitors are taking part in an act of worship.
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Doc. Ref: BerkeleyPrimary-6-002
Page No.: 4 of 4
Doc. Date: Autumn Term 2018

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- Collective worship resources are to be stored in the staff room for planning and preparation. Resources are taken from a wide range of books, relevant internet sites and 'Values for Life' by the Gloucester Diocese.
- Music will be used to enhance personal reflection in assemblies. Hymns sung will be taken from the 'Out of the Ark' collection (Songs for Everybody, Songs for Every Assembly and Songs for Every Singing School).
- Staff are encouraged to lead assemblies if they wish to.
- We respect the right for parents to withdraw their child/ren from times of collective worship. Parents should inform the head teacher if they wish to withdraw their child/ren. There is no requirement for a reason to be given. Alternative arrangements will be made to ensure the welfare of the child/ren during this time.

Review

The Collective Worship Policy will be evaluated and reviewed in line with our Curriculum Development Plan in Autumn 2021. Any amendments will be presented to the governors for discussion at their next meeting following the review.
