Worship Policy

Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Changes made:
0.1	10.02.22	L.Hirst	Updated new logo.
0.2	21.02.22	SMT	Changes to rationale Changes to timings of collective worship Removed the worship file

Rationale

At St. Bede, while respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all children, parents and staff, we take the teachings and examples of our Lord Jesus as the foundation of our educational life and spiritual values. Collective worship is underpinned by the school vision, values and scripture.

Aims

- To create an ethos where everyone is valued;
- to give children opportunities to praise God;
- to provide a daily act of worship;
- to celebrate and respect all faiths;
- to show faith in practice by incorporating a clear Christian framework in the daily collective act of worship;
- to encourage all pupils to make a personal contribution to the quality of worship in the school;
- to maintain links with St. Bede Church.

Approaches to uphold these aims

The members of the Multi Academy Trust constitute representatives from the Diocesan Board of Education, the Parish Church Council and the Archdeaconry as corporate bodies, and the majority of the Governing Body are appointed by these bodies. This ensures that the Christian faith is upheld.

Multicultural aspects are integrated into collective worship. We endeavour to celebrate cultures and religions at appropriate times and all children are included in these celebrations. Where possible, visitors may be invited, or visits arranged, to practically demonstrate aspects of faith and culture.

Each class will provide a prayer corner or area which can be used as a quiet place for thought and reflection. Children will be encouraged to respond to a 'Word' or 'Question of the week'.

The close proximity between Church and school offers a real symbol of spiritual links. School services, involvement with the Church on a regular basis, weekly worship led by a minister, attendance by the clergy and Governors in school all help to enhance these links with the Church and Parish.

All classes lead a whole school assembly once a year, and parents and friends are invited to support their children by attending. Parents are invited to comment after class assemblies.

All collective worship should provide an environment in which children feel confident to explore and develop their own beliefs and spirituality. This should be through:

- a deeper understanding of the school vision and values (reinforced through actions) and the scripture that underpins it;
- inviting of the Holy Trinity and lighting of the candles at the start of each worship;
- a chance to link our Christian school values to everyday experiences;
- singing hymns of praise;
- coming together each day to celebrate life;
- fostering a sense of the importance of, and the spiritual aspect of, worship and reflection as a celebration of the values of life;
- gaining knowledge of the Christian faith based upon the significance of the Bible, the Holy Trinity and celebrated through the festivals and Saints' days of the Church's year;
- celebrating festivals and beliefs from other faiths, especially those practised by children at St. Bede;
- an awareness of the needs of others based upon an appreciation of the values and beliefs developed from reflection on moral and social issues;
- an opportunity for the children to develop their leadership and performance skills by participating in an act of collective worship;
- an understanding of the school and its place in the wider world, by expressing sorrow and joy at local and world events and to recognise God's role in these;
- providing a moral framework to underpin and guide children's actions.

The school recognises the rights of parents to withdraw children from the act of worship, whilst clearly stating that it is not possible for pupils to avoid the Christian ethos of the school. However, all parents have expressed a preference that their child attends St. Bede and are aware of its religious character. If children are withdrawn from worship, supervision arrangements would result and would be difficult to organise and also parents would be denying a school place to a child who may fully participate in all aspects of school life. This should be indicated to parents.

Teachers' rights of conscience are also safeguarded and the rights of teachers to decline to lead worship is acknowledged.