

**Box CE VC Primary School
Collective Worship Policy**

'It's like a mustard seed that man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree and the birds in the sky nested in its branches.' Luke 13:19

Plant, Nurture, Flourish, Serve

The school garden is a very special and unique part of our school and is enjoyed for its beauty as well as a place to play and learn. On their journey through the school the children are taught gardening jobs and are responsible for areas of the garden. There are many opportunities for them to plant seeds, nurture plants and watch them flourish. The children are helped to explore how 'Plant, Nurture, Flourish, Serve' is a metaphor that can be applied to many aspects of their life.

Our Christian values (compassion, forgiveness, sharing, trust and respect, responsibility, truthfulness, perseverance, wisdom, creativity, friendship, peace and courage) are explored during collective worship and are embedded into the life of the school. These values are shared by people of other faiths as well as people of no faith and are modelled by all staff to promote positive relationships.

Box Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by pupils and staff and visitors in school are very welcome to join in. We value the school's church school status and offer a distinctive and inclusive education based upon our school vision and Christian values.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. The Trust Deed which states that the school was established to teach *'poor-children to read and instructing them in the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England'*. In addition to daily acts of worship in school, the celebration of special occasions, such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and our leavers' service, take place in the Church.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim at Box CE VC Primary School is that collective worship should:

- reflect the school's trust deed
- underpin the school's vision and Christian values
- be appropriate to the ages, abilities and backgrounds of the pupils

- offer opportunities to worship God, experience stillness and quiet and respond to Christian language and symbolism
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the church celebrate special occasions in the Churches year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and the life of the community
- help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- help children develop their own spirituality
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents and other members of the local community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- celebrate and give thanks for the values, worth and achievements within the school, local and international
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

Planning Collective Worship

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum in the way that it is planned, delivered, resourced and evaluated. The content and methodology of assemblies is varied. Twelve Christian values are used as a focus for collective worship on a two-year cycle. They have been carefully chosen because they are understood by all members of the school community and are relevant to the lives of even the youngest children. Each value is the focus for a term. Big questions generated by the children are collated and develop into a progression of ideas through the value linking aspects of spirituality - self, others, beauty and beyond (*see Spiritual Development Policy*). The questions asked inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct.

Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes and big questions chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The weekly structure of collective worship and the invitation to local church leaders to lead collective worship on a Monday means that the week usually begins with an explicit link to the Bible and a Bible story. In subsequent acts of collective worship, the link with the Bible is reinforced through other stories. Church leaders, foundation governors and staff have input into the development of the collective worship programme.

Each term a class plans and leads an act of worship for the whole school and parents linked to the terms value. Prayers and reflections are written each week by a class on a rota linked to the term's value and the week's big question. Assembly jobs such as the music, song words and chairs are the responsibility of the children.

In Box Primary School, worship is organised in the following way:

- A whole school act of collective worship on a Monday morning led by a local church leader, headteacher or visitor and attended by the whole school
- Key Stage One assembly on Thursday and class assembly on Tuesday
- Key Stage Two assembly on Tuesday and class assembly on Thursday
- Whole school singing assembly on Wednesday
- Whole school family assembly on Friday led by the headteacher or classes

Key Stage assemblies and class assemblies are normally led by class teachers, some TAs and occasionally visitors. We also hold our own Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and leavers' services in the church as well as celebrating Harvest Festival. Church services always include contributions from children.

Monitoring and evaluating collective worship

The Ethos Committee monitor collective worship. Termly we seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship through Big Question discussions, with staff or a questionnaire.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Box Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

We hope that all staff will support the Christian ethos of the school but as we are a VC school staff, including the headteacher, have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. The headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in the school.

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for pupils. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come.

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Christian practices may include the use of:

