

# St Barnabas' CE Primary School & Nursery



## Collective Worship Policy

*“Serve with Hope and Encouragement to Learn and Love”*

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”  
Matthew 7 v.7*

**This policy was approved by the Governing Body: March 2025**

**This policy will be reviewed by March 2027**

*(unless any changes are necessary prior to this date)*

### **AIMS**

Collective Worship at St Barnabas' plays a central role in supporting and strengthening our school Christian vision, values and ethos.

Our school vision is based on the verse in Matthew's Gospel *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*. Our vision is based on St Barnabas' being known as the son of encouragement and his symbol of a shell.

Through our school vision, children and adults of all religious faiths and those of no religious faith are part of inclusive, inspirational and inspiring acts of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship at St Barnabas':

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.

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- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

As a Church School, Collective Worship is a vitally important part of the school day. Almost all acts of Collective Worship take place at the end of the school day to bring the school community together as we prepare to leave school for the day. Collective Worship is also led by the parish priest of St Barnabas' Church on a weekly basis.

### **PLANNING**

Collective Worship plans are formulated by the Executive Headteacher, SLT and clergy, and are discussed with pupils as part of the monitoring and evaluation schedule. Teachers follow the whole school themes for each term when planning their acts of Collective Worship. .

The weekly themes reflect the liturgical calendar, the Trinitarian nature of God, Biblical texts the school Christian vision and Christian values:

- **Serve** - service, community
  - **Hope** - patience, peace
  - **Encouragement** - trust, humility
  - **Learn** - wisdom, endurance
- Love** - compassion, forgiveness, thankfulness

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/collective-worship/>.

All Collective Worship begins with the Music of the Week (linked to the weekly theme) and the lighting of a candle. Teaching staff are expected to attend and participate in all acts of Collective Worship.

Values and thoughts shared in Collective Worship permeate throughout daily life at school and are captured in school displays.

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Collective Worship usually takes place in school, but we also visit St Barnabas' Church (and other churches/schools) throughout the year. There are many occasions for parents to join us in Collective Worship throughout the school year. Our school vision is a strength in our Collective Worship - parents of different religious faiths and those of no religious faith are all welcome. Everyone is encouraged to be included, everyone belongs.

### **Prayer**

Pupils contribute to the leading of and writing of prayers in acts of worship each term; these are recorded in class prayer books. Our whole school prayer is based on our school vision and was written with contributions from the whole school community. Our prayer can be said at any time of day, but is always used at the end of Celebration Worship with parents on a Friday afternoon:

Dear God  
Help us to **serve** with **hope** in our community.  
Thank you for **encouraging** us in our **learning**.  
May we support others,  
And show **love** and compassion in all that we do.  
Amen

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring the impact of Collective Worship includes all members of the school community. Staff are invited to share feedback using the template on the shared drive and pupils contribute their thoughts and feelings and impact of Collective Worship using school displays. Pupils also monitor the quality and impact of Collective Worship.

The Headteacher, SLT and clergy then use this feedback as part of their evaluation process to plan future acts of Collective Worship and in reviewing how effective the school's distinctive Christian vision is, and its impact.

### **INCLUSION**

Adaptations can be made to acts of Collective Worship to ensure everyone is involved and included. Adaptations may include specific visual supports for non-verbal pupils, or art/craft activities to support the weekly theme.

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### **Withdrawal**

Collective Worship is a central part of school life at St Barnabas' and we encourage everyone to be involved. The strength of our diverse and inclusive school community ensures that everyone is included - those of all faiths and those of none.

For parents who do not wish for their child to be involved in Collective Worship, we ask that they put their concerns in writing to the Executive Headteacher. The letter should cover:

- the elements of Collective Worship the parents object to
- if they would allow the child to be present in Collective Worship, but not take part
- what the child should be doing if they can't be present in Collective Worship