

BREDHURST CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY

January 2025

(Review Date: January 2026)



BREDHURST VISION

To learn and grow through the guidance and love of God

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At Bredhurst CE Primary we value diversity and promote equality of opportunity for all.

Religious education should enable every child to flourish and live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10)

It will help educate for dignity and respect, encouraging all to live well together.

OUR VISION

Our Vision is inspired by Matthew 13 : 31-32, The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Jesus said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 - It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 - Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

The theology behind this parable is embedded across all our learning

OUR ETHOS

At Bredhurst, we aim to be proactive in helping each child to achieve the key elements to well-being in childhood and later life. These are:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well being

OUR CORE VALUES

The 'Spirit of Bredhurst' encompasses our core Christian values

- **S**elf control
- **P**erseverance
- **I**nclusion
- **R**espect
- **I**nspiration
- **T**rust

These are displayed in each classroom, the entrance, the hall and the playground and are referred to regularly in Worship and in class lessons.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of:

Self control
Perseverance
Inclusion
Respect
Inspiration
Trust

It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship

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

- 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.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

THE ANGLICAN CHRISTIAN TRADITION

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using Psalms with simple responses

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

IMPLEMENTATION

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors like those from the Family trust. In consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Our school plans systematically and cohesively use the Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Planning which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: These can be found on our policies page on the school website.

This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children, as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet at the following times:

Day	Time	Leader
Monday	9.05 - 9.30 a.m.	Head Teacher - Theme based
Tuesday	9.05 - 9.30 a.m.	Class teacher- Theme based
Wednesday	9.05 - 9.30 a.m.	Teacher led- Singing/Psalm Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 95:1-

Thursday	9.05 - 9.30 a.m.	Class led or Teacher led– Theme based.
Friday	9.05-9.30am	Head Teacher - Celebration Worship

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ... Psalm 150:1-6

Each class has the opportunity to plan and lead a worship three times a year. These occasions are also instrumental in exploring our core values and the Biblical teachings with the parents. Governors, parents and friends are invited to attend but it is stressed that they are joining the school in an act of worship rather than observing a performance. It has been agreed with the Head Teacher, if other parents are accepting, that video and still photography are permitted during special worships, they are reminded about not putting images on social media.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT (films and videos clips).

OUR WORSHIP CONSISTS OF 4 STAGES:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
- **Engage** – we share *a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message.*
- **Respond** – pupils use talking partners to discuss, share, reflect. Then they are offered the opportunity to pray and reflect.
- **Send** – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy a final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

CHURCH SERVICES

As a Church of England (V C) School we value the link that we have with the local church and therefore during the year the school has four services when we welcome the clergy into the school. These are:

- Harvest Festival: October
- Christmas Carol Service:
- Christmas Service: at St. Peter's Church
- Easter Service: March/April at St. Peter's Church,
- Leavers' Service: July

Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

The school undertakes the order of service and the Team Rector is invited to give an address/talk.

TIMES OF REMOTE LEARNING- WORSHIPS IF NEEDED

During times of remote learning the school recognises the importance of the children being able to access the worships which are being delivered in class.

The worships from the Rochester Diocese will be posted weekly on the school website for families to access together.

The Worship lead, Mrs Place, will ensure that the staff are sent the plans and video links for them to deliver in school. Staff will ensure that home learners have the opportunity to join at this time via, TEAMS or Zoom.

Whole school Celebration Worship, usually lead by Mrs Cox, will take place weekly for all pupils to access, both home and in school. Staff will celebrate a home learner as well as a school learner, ensuring all children feel valued and encouraged to do their best.

Each week, each teacher/ class will be able to nominate a child who has upheld one of the school "Spirits". Certificates will be sent home- to those who are not in school.

EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS

Pupils plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis with the support of their peers and class teacher/TA.

DEVELOPING WORSHIP

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends professional development as appropriate with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

SELF-ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and to develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils via our questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered during the year. These are shared with our SIAMS committee, during full governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law

under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS) in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester.

PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and of none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors



