



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

The Beacon's Policy for Collective Worship for Church of England (CofE) Schools (CW)

- Agreed at the meeting of the Curriculum and Learning Committee: Tuesday 8th July 2025
- Date of next review: Summer 2028

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Our vision is for 'Living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). The bible teaches us that God wants all his children to flourish, and that community and living well together are of the utmost importance in achieving this aim. We call our community 'One Big Beacon Family', together we focus on achieving our Vision for all members of our community. Working with parents and carers, we provide learning and play experiences which engage children's interests; inspire them to want to know more; motivate them to persevere with their learning and empower them to develop skills of independence. We aim that our children will become:



- **Confident individuals** who can positively face the successes and challenges of life.
- **Successful learners** who can take their place in a constantly changing world.
- **Responsible citizens** who are able to make a positive contribution to today's diverse society.
- **Appreciative and respectful of other people's uniqueness and talents** and recognised and celebrated for their own.

We want each child, member of staff and our wider community to learn to live life in all its fullness, develop wonderful life-long memories of their Beacon years and the knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to continue to flourish throughout their lives.

Throughout our lives, we face tough challenges, difficult times and experience great joy. We can read examples of all these, and how to manage them, in the Bible. In order to live life in all its fullness, we all need support to learn to understand, develop and use strategies which keep us safe, care for and promote our mental health and wellbeing and empower us to be our best selves.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Further information about our Vision statement can be found on our school website.

Collective worship in a church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10), living out the Church of England's Vision for Education (2016). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

At The Beacon, collective worship is central to the life of the school and is shaped by the school's vision and the Anglican foundation of the school. It is well planned so that the whole school family gathers together **daily** and is



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

engaged on a journey of discovery and spiritual development, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. Collective worship strengthens and supports our school's identity and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values. We use values from the Roots and Fruits worship resources and link these to our vision.

For Christians, worship in church is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At The Beacon, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through collective worship, pupils and adults will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils and adults will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.² We have therefore considered what spirituality and spiritual development means to us as a school and have our own agreed definition and language of spirituality. We define Spirituality as our relationships with 'ourselves, others, the world and beyond' and have a series of actions to support children's understanding. This enhances and enriches collective worship and individuals' spiritual development.

Church of England Guidance

The collective worship policy at The Beacon draws on guidance from the Church of England³. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils and adults to flourish. Leaders and governance should ensure that 'collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations with God, both as individuals and together.'

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools and academies for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school (this includes our Governor-Run Pre-School). This can take place at anytime in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is **not** relevant. Worship at The Beacon should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing board of the school are tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship in enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually, in consultation with the headteacher. They also have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework, school policy, local and national guidance.



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

They have a responsibility to ensure that:

- Collective worship reflects the schools Anglican/Methodist foundation and enables the spiritual flourishing of those in the school community
- The school has a regular and meaningful relationship with the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) accessing expertise and support for collective worship, as well as effective regular partnership with the parish/local church

Additionally, the trustees/governing body of the school consider the SIAMS sub-questions from IQ3:

- a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?
- b) How do partnerships with the DBE, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?
- c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?
- d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?

The right of withdrawal

At The Beacon we recognise that some children and families are not Christians and are members of another faith or hold a non-religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that we are invitational and inclusive to all in the community we serve. Collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of all church schools, and the Christian foundation and vision of the school shapes worship and the spirituality in the school. All are warmly welcomed to be part of daily collective worship as part of the school community.

The 1944, 1988 and 1998 Education Acts state that parents/carers have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent/carer may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents/carers wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent/carer will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

Where parents/carers have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the parent/carer asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent/carer may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship at The Beacon aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school community.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth and development through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Be central in the life of the school and is shaped by the school's vision and the Anglican foundation of the school.
- Provide opportunities for pupils and adults to be inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and non-religious beliefs to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst appreciating that Christians worship in different ways.
- Help pupils to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church's year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving pupils the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

- Offer opportunities to all pupils and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship if it supports their own spiritual development.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the diverse work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

Our Collective Worship policy is developed in line with local recommendations from the Diocese of Exeter, the views of members of our One Big Beacon Family (children, families, staff and other stakeholders) and the drive to engage, inspire, motivate and empower every member to live life in all its fullness.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- Spiritual development, SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How collective worship is organised

Collective Worship is organised to take account of:

- The different groupings for worship, including whole school/key stage/class worship across each week.
- We use different settings and places for worship; we ensure the space used is special; we create the appropriate atmosphere for worship. For example by using:
- The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
- Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,
- Ritual and liturgical responses,
- Different seating arrangements,



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

- Outdoor areas e.g. our outdoor spaces, the local church and/or churchyard, the beach.
- Collective Worship is held at the start of the day, it is approximately 20 minutes in duration. Fridays are longer due to being in Church and celebrating children's achievements in addition to the worship.

Leadership

Member of staff responsible for collective worship is the headteacher, Mrs Anne Billington.

- Whole school worship is usually led by the Headteacher, a senior member of staff or the clergy team (weekly). Other staff, children and visitors may also take whole school worship.
- Support and guidance is given to visitors leading worship, for example through training, Diocesan professional development opportunities, team-leadership, coaching and mentoring. An information leaflet for visitors is produced by the Diocese.

Planning

- Collective Worship is planned by the Headteacher in consultation with the clergy team and Heads of School from the Church Schools within our Mission Community. Each school will then adapt the planning to meet individual needs and their own vision. Roots and Fruits materials are the primary resource. Individual teaching teams are provided with recommendations and guidance to support the delivery of class worship.
- All members of the school community, especially children, are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship through monitoring and evaluation opportunities, including informal discussions; regular opportunities to join in and develop confidence to lead; support to lead having made a request for a worship of their own devising. Particularly in class worship, teaching teams engage, inspire, motivate and empower children to confidently lead worship, and/or elements of worship.
- Collective worship reflects the cycle of the Church's year and special services, celebrations are planned in to the annual cycles.
- Our Christian vision for living life in all its fullness (John 10:10) is the 'golden thread' that is woven through not only all Collective Worship, but the entirety of life at The Beacon for all members of our One Big Beacon Family, the Christian values we use are clearly identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship, we know this because our children use them naturally in conversation.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school within worship, with planned opportunities to revisit bible stories and Christian values so that children investigate and explore, ask questions and deepen their understanding.
- The pattern for worship is used which reflects Anglican tradition, for example in the 'liturgy' our children have created for each act of worship.
- A wide range and variety of materials is used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle. Worship takes place both indoors and outside and, where appropriate, on trips and residential.



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world, for example through the variety of 'modern-day' experiences, stories, learning about and from other people.
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored, for example through the 'liturgy' we have developed, Bible stories and our own spiritual reflections.
- Spiritual growth and development is nurtured through prayer, stillness and reflection, creativity, song, dance, music in both Collective Worship and throughout each child's day.
- All staff have access to high quality resources and training to support planning
- Families are informed about the themes and values of Collective Worship each week with an update in the newsletter.

Organisation

Collective Worship is organised to take account of:

- Different groupings for worship, including whole school/key stage/class worship
- Different settings and places are used for worship, eg Holy Trinity Church, our hall, outside spaces, the classrooms;
- Worship space is made special by gaining children's views about how we develop and use a worship table, images and incorporation of symbols and candles;
- The atmosphere for worship is created using:

The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,

Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,

Ritual and liturgical responses,

How the children are seated,

An outdoor area e.g. spiritual garden, the local church

- Worship is usually held early in the school day and lasts for 20 minutes.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The governing body are responsible for this policy and monitoring.
- The headteacher and the senior leadership team are responsible for day-to-day leadership of Collective Worship and providing monitoring evidence to support Governors.
- Clergy and church partners support the staff and lead worship in school.
- Teaching and support staff join collective worship as a part of the whole life of our school.



The Beacon

Church of England (V.A.) Primary & Pre-School *Living life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

- Children participate in and have opportunities to lead Collective Worship. The children's voice in critical in developing our practice.
- Parents and carers are invited to join Friday's Collective Worship along with other key celebrations across the year.
- Visitors, wider family and members of our local community are welcome to join Friday's Collective Worship at Holy Trinity as it is for all members of our One Big Beacon Family.
- Visitors to school are invited to join our Collective Worship, where a visitor is leading Collective Worship, they will be supported by the Headteacher or a member of senior staff.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. Support and training should also be made available to partners from the local church who lead worship.

The school's named lead for collective worship accesses updates and training through the optional annual training offered by the diocesan education team and through the termly diocesan update meetings.

Monitoring and evaluation

- We monitor and evaluate the impact of worship through informal discussion, formal monitoring, and through paying close attention to the direct daily impact of worship on the people who were there, ie evidence through their day that the worship had an impact on them.
- All members of our One Big Beacon Family are, or are invited to be involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship.
- Examples of how monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time include choir leading singing at Holy Trinity, retaining the Roots and Fruits Values as our primary value-focus, developing our 'One Big Beacon Family' board in a central location in our school. Children asked for our Transition Tuesdays to start with whole school worship and the One Big Beacon Family 'World of Stories' theme.

Disseminating and reviewing the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website. This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if there is a significant change to the current legislation or guidance.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the diocesan website⁴)

Collective Worship plans are available from the Admin office on request.