



Lady Boswell's C.E. (Aided) Primary  
School

*Learning Together,  
Christ at the Centre,  
Learning for Life*

**COLLECTIVE  
WORSHIP POLICY**

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Signature:

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## **Lady Boswell's Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

We value every member of our community as a unique child of God and seek to demonstrate His love through our words and actions. We enable every child to achieve their full potential so that they leave us with their heads inspired and their hearts enriched.

As a result, our children will:

- ✓ Develop a positive sense of self and well-being; confident to make the right choices and keep themselves safe in an ever-changing society
- ✓ Strive for academic excellence, developing a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning
- ✓ Become effective communicators, collaborators and leaders
- ✓ Be resilient, resourceful and courageous
- ✓ Be curious, creative individuals and confident problem solvers
- ✓ Grow in spiritual awareness and develop a strong moral compass and a deepening understanding of the Christian faith in a multi-faith British society
- ✓ Become responsible and tolerant global citizens who value diversity, forgive readily, and have concern for the needs of each other, the school, the wider community, and the planet.

Lady Boswell's School is committed to an inclusive Christian ethos based on respect for, and celebration of, all children and stakeholders regardless of gender, disability, faith and racial diversity. This policy aims to ensure that all children will be able to access Collective Worship fully.

### **Legal Requirements**

1. In accordance with the 1996 Education Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 the Governing body is responsible for providing a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This may be a single act of worship for the whole school or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups.) This act of worship will normally take place on the school's premises but, on special occasions, may take place elsewhere.
2. The content of the act of worship must be in accordance with the trust deed, i.e. in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. The whole Governing body, not one or several governors, has a corporate responsibility to see that a daily act of worship is provided, to inform the parents of their right of withdrawal and to set up a complaints procedure and appeals system for parents dissatisfied with the act of worship.

## **How is this policy a reflection of our distinctive Christian vision?**

Our vision is rooted in John 1:12: *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”* It is expressed through the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**, which calls us to help others and use our blessings for good. Lady Margaret Boswell’s original 1675 foundation—educating the poorest children of Sevenoaks—remains a living witness to this theology of love in action.

The centring of our school community in Christ will naturally lead us towards high aspirations and the promotion of learning for life. As an integral part of this we are committed to a Collective Worship that actively engages all members of the school community, regularly focusing us on our Christian ethos and guiding our children towards a reflective understanding of the Bible and the Christian Faith. We are deeply committed to embedding our core distinctively Christian values in every aspect of school life, particularly in our Acts of Collective Worship, and will work alongside all visiting leaders of Collective Worship to ensure that they share and model this vision. This policy aims to ensure that our Collective Worship will enrich and develop the spiritual life of every child at Lady Boswell’s, supporting them and preparing them to become independent, reflective and empathetic members of our global society.

## **An Introduction to Collective Worship in Lady Boswell’s School**

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship is a central and integral part of the life of our school community. Collective Worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a school family. Collective Worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of love, honesty, respect, forgiveness, faith and kindness and celebrates the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community. Our acts of Collective Worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and 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. Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective Worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do’ anything. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship offers pupils, staff and the wider school community the opportunity to:

- Gather together to share sacred moments of joy, challenge, grief and love.
- Explore the school's distinctive Christian vision and values in action
- Reflect on the nature of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still, pray and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Explore Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate significant and 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:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- 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 worship, and festivals.
- 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 Christian beliefs.
- 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.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

## **Implementation**

Collective Worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the Collective Worship leader. This act of worship usually takes place in the morning 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.

We usually meet as follows:

Monday – whole school worship (KS1&2 with EYFS joining in later in the year) led by a representative of St Nicholas, our linked Parish Church.

Tuesday – whole school worship (KS1&2) led by a representative from a local church, a member of the SLT or the Worship Council.

Wednesday – classroom worship (KS1&2) led by class teachers and pupils.

Thursday – Key Stage worship (KS1&2) led by a class teacher.

Friday – whole school worship and celebration (EYFS, KS1&2) led by members of Year 6, assisted by a member of the SLT.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include music, silence, drama and use of IT.

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
- **Engage** – we share, for example a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message.
- **Respond** – pupils, for example discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing
- **Send** – we share, for example, the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, music and the blowing out of the candle.

We are committed to ensuring that Collective Worship is fully inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including those with additional needs. In line with the Church of England's guidance for inclusive, invitational worship, we make appropriate adaptations to enable every child to participate meaningfully. Our aim is always to ensure that every child feels safe, respected and valued, and is able to encounter worship in a way that is appropriate and supportive of their individual needs. This may include, for example, one to one support, strategic seating or the use of fidget tools. We also have introduced carefully planned weekly classroom worship to ensure all children can engage in a meaningful way in a smaller, more intimate environment.

### **Early Years' Worship**

EYFS have their own Acts of Worship on 3 occasions during the week, located in the EYFS area of the School and supported with practical resources which promote the children's active involvement and spiritual development. These Acts of Worship are organised by the St Nicholas Children's Worker, in conjunction with the EYFS teaching team, and led by members of the St. Nicholas team and other volunteers. The children are introduced to the bible, Christian festivals and the teachings of Jesus through an annual plan specifically targeted at this age group.

Monday - EYFS classroom worship, class teacher led; from Term 3/ 4 in whole school worship.

Tuesday - EYFS Act of Worship, a class at a time.

Wednesday - EYFS Act of Worship, a class at a time.

Thursday - EYFS Act of Worship, a class at a time.

Friday - EYFS join the whole school for the Celebration Act of Worship.

### **Expectations of pupils**

In Lady Boswell's School, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis.

We enjoy class-led acts of worship aimed at increasing the children's involvement in worship and in nurturing community with our parents and carers. Each year group will lead one act of worship during the school year and the parents of that class are warmly invited to attend. Themes for these are likely to include Church feasts and traditions. Please see Appendix 1 for the list of themes.

Pupils' involvement may be opportunities planned ahead of time, such as the year group-led assemblies or class assemblies, or unplanned through questioning, asking for volunteers or simply responding to moments of spontaneity. Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship.

A Worship Council was set up in September 2013, in order to further develop and promote the children's engagement with, and leading of, our school Collective Worship. This Council has the opportunity to meet once a week with the volunteer Worship Council leader, to reflect, pray and receive support. The Worship Council consists of a group of children in Year 6 who have applied to be on the Council and a Chair and Vice-Chair/s who have nominated him/herself and been appointed by the Co-Headteachers. The Chair/Vice-Chair and Collective Worship leader liaise in order to plan and facilitate regular occasions during the course of the school year on which each member of the Worship Council (as part of a small group) can introduce/close/pray and lead whole-school assemblies. Key Stage 1 also has four Worship Council volunteer representatives taken from children within the Year 2 classes, who assist with KS1 worship.

### **Developing worship**

The leader for Collective Worship will:

- Ensure that all pupils have access to a daily act of Collective Worship, therefore meeting statutory requirements
- Ensure that Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- Attend regular training and network meetings with the Diocese
- Produce and regularly review the Collective Worship policy to ensure that it reflects current practice and thinking
- Liaise with the Co-Headteachers and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of Collective Worship across the school

- Ensure all stakeholders know what the expectations of worship are when leading, planning and joining worship
- Evaluate the impact of Collective Worship on the whole school community by gathering pupil and adult voice
- Signpost staff to a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and resources, to help develop their confidence in leading acts of worship
- Ensure there is a school protocol that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited to lead Collective Worship
- Meet with and encourage pupil leaders of worship to enable them to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates acts of Collective Worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. These are shared with our senior leadership team and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. The impact of Collective Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Collective Worship is a central part of our school life, but it is recognised that parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from this activity. This is communicated with parents via our Parent Handbook. However, to avoid any misunderstanding, parents are encouraged to discuss the surrounding issues with the Co-Headteachers before reaching a decision to withdraw their child.

## Appendix 1

### **Year group-led Acts of Worship**

Year R	Friendship/Buddy focus
Year 1	Mothers' Day service
Year 2	KS1 Harvest (leading)
Year 3	Advent
Year 4	Pentecost
Year 5	Ash Wednesday/Lent
Year 6	Remembrance

### **Special Acts of Worship**

#### KS2:

Carol Service

Easter Service

Year 6 Leavers' Service

#### Whole school:

Annual Service

KS1 & 2: Harvest