Binsted CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres"

Corinthians 13:4

Introduction

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. We hold a daily act of Collective Worship. Legal Responsibility The 1988 Education Reform Act states that

• all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day

• this may be as a whole school or in different age groupings

• the act of worship may happen at any time in the school day

• Collective Worship should be, "wholly or mainly of a Christian Character." We, therefore, normally base our Collective Worship on the teaching of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our Collective Worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Some Collective Worship will reflect the traditions of other religions represented in the school or the wider community.

• in Voluntary Controlled schools it is the responsibility of the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher to ensure that an act of Collective Worship happens every day

• in Voluntary Controlled schools the character and content of worship continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds

• teachers in Voluntary Controlled schools, other than reserved teachers, do have the right to withdraw

• all parents have the right to withdraw their children from school worship in any school. Organisation of Collective Worship

There is an act of Collective Worship each day.

Monday

HT/Senior Teacher – Celebration Worship, including our Golden Thread Value 9-9.30am

Tuesday-

Class teacher – Spirituality Focus Class/Key Stage Worship 1- 1.30pm

Wednesday BenBinFro –

Aligned to the half term Golden Thread value 9-9.30am

Thursday Teacher –

Singing Worship 2.45-3.15pm

Friday

HT Value Worship – Senior Teacher 2:45 – 3:10pm

They also have the opportunity to share news in the teacher led worship.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements recognised. Bentley School will continue to celebrate the successes of all our children in our Collective Worship.

Aims for Worship and Inclusion

Our school acts of Collective Worship aim:

• to provide an opportunity for children to worship God by providing a time for reflection within the assembly,

• to develop the children's understanding of our Christian vision "know that I am with you always." Matthew 28:20,

• to provide an opportunity to ask and answer questions about God and Jesus

• to help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them

• to offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships

• to provide regular time and opportunity for reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern to the broader and more lasting concerns of life

• to develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs

• to provide time to share with others the things we have been doing, our thoughts and ideas

• to help children develop shared values - honesty, respect, tolerance, self-discipline, forgiveness, stewardship, fairness, etc.,

• to give children experience of being active members of a caring community

• to respond, in a compassionate and civilised way, to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed, etc.

• to ensure that all pupils feel fully included and are given equal access to and encouraged in undertaking worship regardless of ability, age, ethnic group or gender.

Creating an appropriate setting for our worship At Binsted School worship normally takes place in our hall.

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship we aim to create a focal point through:

• the use of music or silence

• visual aids through objects or projected images

• pictures or posters

• the use of a candle as a focal point for our Collective Worship

• the use of a cross made by one of the children

• the use of a cloth on the worship table of the colour of the Anglican liturgical colours

Our school follows the GERS approach to structure our daily worship. This structure has four elements: - - - - gather engage respond send out

We encourage children, particularly Church Councillors to be involved in planning and delivering Collective Worship and special celebrations using this structure. Head Pupils welcome all once gathered, sharing a prayer to close our worship. A rota is drawn each half term, so children have the opportunity to lead us in the Lord's Prayer to conclude worship at the church each term.

The Character of Worship

The acts of collective worship in our school are planned to give the children a variety of experiences, and to enable them to come to the threshold of worship.

These experiences will include:

• the telling of appropriate stories from the Bible and other sources

• drama

• poetry

• mime

• music - both to listen and to participate in

• visiting speakers

• videos

• occasional use of other visual aids.

A Worshipful Response The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through

• silent reflection

• thoughtful spoken response

• spoken prayers

• the singing of songs. The use of prayer may be that of prayers the children have written, traditional prayers or short prayers led by teacher/visitors.

In addition to silent reflection and praise, we have identified seven characteristics of worshipful response:

• saying 'thank you'

• saying 'sorry'

• celebrating

• thinking of others

• remembering

• showing compassion

• asking God for help for themselves and for others.

These characteristics are reflected in the choice of prayers and songs. Children with their own personal faith will be helped to reflect on the character and person of God. Children are invited to make the prayers their own, by the saying of “Amen” - I agree.

The school will often use the Lord’s Prayer to close the act of collective worship and this will often be led by a child.

Visitors who are invited to take Collective Worship are given a copy of the School’s Worship Policy and the relevant worship theme.

Lunchtimes There will be a communal prayer of thanks in each class before the children eat together.

Children will be given the opportunity to lead the class in this prayer.

July 26