



Revised January 2019

**Bainbridge C of E Primary & Nursery School, Askrigg VC Primary School and West Burton C of E Primary School  
 Collective Worship Policy**

Distinctive Christian Visions:

**Bainbridge:** *Learning and Growing, Loving and Caring with Jesus*  
**West Burton:** *Guiding us to a Brighter Future*

Mission Statement

A visioning session of the governors of all three schools in our collaboration, under the guidance of our local authority and the diocese, shaped the following mission statement:

**'Mid-Dale Excellence in Education'**

***Working together we will provide a broad and rich education of the highest standard through which our children will be prepared for the future, confident and motivated to develop and learn.***

Rationale

At Bainbridge and West Burton Schools we seek to reflect the Anglican foundation of our trust deeds. At Askrigg Primary School we seek to value and respect this foundation within the shared mission statement of our collaboration.

We recognise and show empathic understanding and respect for those of other faiths or those with none at all.

Across the school communities great value is placed on collective worship and its place in school life. Its impact on individuals and their wider lives is readily and clearly articulated.

Aims and Objectives

Collective worship unites all members of the school and contributes significantly to our sense of community. It is key in the promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child.

- Collective worship takes place daily in each of our schools.
- We encourage 'real life' spirituality and we look to use the life and teaching of Jesus as a guiding and uplifting experience.
- Children and adults have the opportunity to address painful or sad things in their lives, and issues which face individuals in the school community are brought to God in prayer and reflection.
- Daily worship draws the children and staff together each day and allows for a time of reflection on the school values and Bible teaching.
- Collective worship is an opportunity to reflect and make links between staff and children's own beliefs and the Christian faith.
- There is no compulsion for children to participate in prayer or hymns which they cannot or do not subscribe to. This is particularly relevant when children with no faith, and those who have registered at a non-church school attend collective worship at another of our collaboration schools.
- All children are required to attend a daily act of collective worship, according to the law, unless their parents expressly request that they are withdrawn.



## Our Practice

At the BAWB Federation Collective Worship is varied, challenging, interesting and, relevant to the needs and the experiences of pupils. We have a clear and detailed long-term worship plan with input from a range of adults, including clergy, Foundation Governors (through monitoring) and all teaching staff. It takes place on a daily basis and all members of staff participate on a regular basis.

Worship is centred on different themes that are linked with the idea of 'Windows on the World' in which children are encouraged to think deeply about:

- themselves
- others
- how they can reach out to others

### Within this we explore:

- a set of Christian Values, including:
  - Trust
  - Peace
  - Creation
  - Endurance
  - Thankfulness
  - Reverence
  - Hope
  - Forgiveness
  - Wisdom
  - Friendship
  - Koinonia (fellowship and community)
  - Humility
  - Compassion
  - Service
  - Justice
- SEAL activities
- The church calendar and festivals
- Bible stories
- Other faiths and cultures

This exploration involves an evaluation of how the stories Jesus tells us, and those which we read in the Bible, have a direct impact / influence on our lives in school and of our lives outside school.

### Planning for Collective Worship:

- Collective worship sessions are planned so that key events in the life of the church may also be explored.
- Children are encouraged to evaluate collective worship, impacting on the development of its effectiveness over time.
- Church School Champions plan, deliver, and evaluate their own collective worship (once per value as a minimum) at Bainbridge and West Burton. They also contribute to collective worship led by others by offering prayers.
- The children experience a range of Anglican and local traditions including regular services in St. Oswald's and St. Andrew's.



The key elements of an act of worship include:

- The lighting of a candle to signify the start of Collective Worship
- Reference to Christian value(s)
- Biblical story or scripture
- Time for reflection
- Prayer (contributed regularly by the children) – regularly ‘The Lord’s Prayer’
  - The centrality of prayer can be seen in every act of collective worship and also throughout the school day: before lunch, and before the end of the school day.
- A hymn / song, linked to the theme where possible
- Evaluation based on the impact of the collective worship, especially in relation to our distinctiveness.

Collective worship at Askrigg Primary School will not always include all of these aspects but Christian values will be explored as per the fifteen listed above.

The leadership and management of worship is such that a strong focus has been placed on the key elements of worship and it is systematically planned and evaluated. It is expected that collective worship is carried out in a number of different ways:

- Class collective worship
- Whole-school collective worship
- Child-led collective worship
- Headteacher and other teachers all contributing to collective worship
- Services in local places of worship

Celebration Assembly:

We hold a special ‘Celebration Assembly’ each Friday where academic, community and personal achievements are celebrated with parents and friends of the school. The ‘RESPECT’ code and our values are central to this and the language we use in celebration draws from them.

**Outcomes**

We use the SIAMS evaluation schedule to evaluate the effectiveness of our collective worship at Bainbridge and West Burton Schools, ensuring that the impact of our collective worship on our Christian Distinctiveness is good or outstanding:

**Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to remove their child from some or all acts of Collective Worship. It is expected that parents would talk to the Headteacher before taking this step. The Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but would ensure that these children have adequate supervision. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship on the grounds of religious belief or practice.