



## **Backwell C of E Junior School**

*Together, We Aspire, Achieve and Celebrate*

### **Collective Worship Policy Statement**

This policy should be taken and used as part of Backwell Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school.

#### **Rationale:**

To provide an opportunity for children to participate in shared experiences of prayer, praise, thanksgiving and celebration to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988, the Trust Deed of the School, and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education.

#### **Aims:**

- 1 To celebrate and offer to God the life and achievements of the school and community.
- 2 To encourage children's natural sense of awe and wonder at God's creation and to develop a sense of worth, gratitude and concern for the world which together form the foundation of worship.
- 3 To provide experiences of Christian worship, which offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all children and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- 4 To encourage children to pray in a way that is appropriate for them and which allows them to feel comfortable.

#### **Methods:**

- 1 An act of worship will take place each day involving teaching staff and pupils of the school.
- 2 The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of the whole school community and termly values and will allow for a variety of responses.
- 3 The act of worship will be taken by members of staff, the Rector, or by others with the agreement of the Foundation Governors. All those responsible for arranging an act of worship will be given a copy of the Worship Calendar for the year and a copy of this policy. From time to time worship will be led by a class or group of children. On the occasions where a class is leading, parents and carers of the class will be invited to attend. On other occasions of celebration parents and carers may be invited to attend. Staff can also attend any form of worship that they choose.

- 4 At least every two terms, worship will be shared with members of the wider community at the Parish Church of St Andrew, Backwell.
- 5 Worship will be planned to take account of the seasons of the church's year and the curriculum and values plan of the school year. It will aim to provide continuity and progression and an opportunity for children to develop spiritually over a period of time.
- 6a The act of worship will last for approximately twenty minutes and follow a recognisable format.
- 6b The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation. Each theme will be developed over a period of time.
- 6c Worship may include a bible reading, other stories, music, drama, artefacts, audiovisual material as appropriate, and material from other beliefs not in conflict with the Christian faith.
- 6d There will be a hymn which whenever possible will relate to the theme of the worship.
- 6e There will be quiet time for prayer and reflection.
- 6f The Lord's Prayer, School Prayer and other memorable Christian prayers will be used.
- 6g Any notices will be clearly separated from the act of worship.
- 6h Suitable music will be played before and after the act of worship to encourage children to sit quietly and listen.
- 6i The pupil led ethos committee will be involved in planning and reviewing worship on a termly basis.

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Headteacher.

**Conclusion:** Children should see the Act of Worship as a place where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part.

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