



The Blue Coat School

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Approved by the Governors' Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Committee on _____

Signed: _____

(A Poole – Chair of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Committee)

This Collective Worship Policy was devised by the Academic Lead and the School Chaplain in consultation with the Headmaster and the Head of Prep.

Date of Next Review: Trinity 2026

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1

One of the statements in the School's Mission and Aims is, 'Nurturing a spirit of fun, adventure and curiosity in a supportive and caring Christian community.' This Policy specifies the manner in which staff aim to fulfil this and the School's motto to 'Grow in Grace' through the School's collective worship.

1.2

This Collective Worship Policy applies to all children in the School including those in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1

The aims and objectives of collective worship at The Blue Coat School are to:

- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs and encourage inclusivity
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- Teach children how to worship.
- Teach the importance of self-worth, the importance of growing in confidence and building community

3. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1

Worship is a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the School coming together and participating in an Assembly or Service. All children are expected to attend all acts of collective worship unless specific exemption has been granted by the Headmaster.

3.2

In keeping with the School's Church of England foundation, assemblies or services are normally based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, they are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the School. When opportunity arises mention may be made of the various world religion festivals enabling all to feel welcome and affirmed.

3.3

Whilst all acts of worship in the School are Christian, other religious traditions that are represented in the School and the wider community are reflected upon.

4. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

4.1

An act of collective worship is held for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Prep. These include Chapel assemblies or assemblies in Houses, Year Groups, Key Stages or Classes/Forms. All teachers and teaching assistants are expected to attend acts of collective worship as required. Staff are expected to set a high standard

of dress when on School business and particularly when in Chapel. Collective worship is led on a weekly basis by Chaplain for all age groups. In Prep collective worship led by Chaplain is usually in Chapel.

4.2

Chaplain also films a short online act of worship each week 'Pause for Thought', with a Bible-based reflection and a prayer, which is played in classrooms across the whole School. Contributions to 'Pause for Thought' also come from other members of Blue Coat staff.

4.3

Acts of worship are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children are told that this time is a period of calm reflection. It is regarded as a special time, and children are expected to behave in an appropriate way. They are asked to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns or songs. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music, candles, incense or other visual aids, to focus the attention of the children providing a stimulating encounter with the Divine. The Chapel Monitors play a significant role in the chaplaincy by processing in and out of chapel (leading the choir, visiting speakers and chaplain); assisting with presentations; ringing the bell; welcoming the community at the door; assisting with the chapel collection. Furthermore, they help to set up chapel and tidy up afterwards.

4.4

Acts of worship are normally conducted by the Chaplain, members of staff or by the children themselves. They are led on a regular basis by different classes. Children and staff are also involved in special Chapel acts of worship. Chapel acts of worship are sometimes led by local clergy, representatives of local Christian groups or representatives of national and local charities.

4.5

Themes for the acts of worship are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, and the festivals of the Christian calendar are observed. Sometimes the themes are related to topics that are taught as part of the School curriculum. The Blue Coat School Values and the fundamental British Values are actively promoted through these themes.

4.6

Acts of worship are also used to develop the children's awareness of the needs of others both in the local community and in the wider world. These provide a focus for the School's practical and spiritual support for a variety of charities.

4.7

Acts of worship can reflect the achievements and learning of the children. The children are encouraged to participate in these by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. This provides opportunities to reward children for their efforts and achievements both in and out of School. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the School, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

4.8

Parents are specifically invited to the Prep Chapel Services each Friday. Parents are also invited to attend on special occasions such as Harvest Festival Services, Carol Services, Easter Services, and Prep Form Assemblies. This enables them to share in this important aspect of their child's life at School. Once a year, at Ascension tide, the Prep children attend a service at St Philip's Cathedral at which the Headmaster lays a wreath in memory of former Governors and Benefactors of The Blue Coat School.

4.9

Governors' attendance at the Chapel Services and Assemblies is always welcome.

5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

5.1

This Policy will be reviewed annually, or before if necessary. It will be presented to the Governor's Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Committee for approval. The minutes of this meeting will be presented to the Governors.