

Bristol Cathedral Choir School

Vision Statement

Bristol Cathedral Choir School is shaped by its Christian vision: **Gathered together, that all may thrive.** Underpinned by the core values of **kindness, courage and hope**, all students are encouraged to discover and achieve their full potential. BCCS is a community that values and celebrates diversity in which everyone has a unique role to play.

Name of policy	Collective Worship Policy
Author of policy	Will Davies
Governing group responsible for the policy	Education Governors
Date adopted by academy	Dec 2019

Introduction

Under the Education Reform Act 1988 the school is required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Collective worship must involve recognition of a deity. The law further requires that worship must be predominantly Christian in character. The Education Reform Act also requires that the school provides for the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all pupils. Parents have a legal right to withdraw pupils from collective worship.

Aim of Collective Worship

The aim of collective worship is to give students time to think and reflect about what they believe and value is important, for themselves, for others and for the world we live in. It is a moment to think about what is beyond our own day to day. Through Collective worship we wish to see students develop spiritually and morally in line with our vision statement and values. We aim to foster a strong sense of community within and beyond the school. Whilst broadly christian in character, our Collective Worship does not aim to indoctrinate or proselytize students, or promote certain responses, but to nurture spirituality, an engagement with meaning, purpose, wonder and mystery about life, and to give students a chance to explore their own beliefs and values, whether religious or secular. Our collective worship will encourage students to consider how they can join in with our vision statement, *Gather together, that all may thrive* and our core values *Kindness, Courage and Hope*, not just whilst they are here at BCCS, but in their own communities and chosen paths in life.

Opportunities for Collective Worship in Practice

1) Friday Assemblies

Students meet together in the Cathedral to celebrate the life of the school, to listen to an address, and have a time of reflection / prayer. The address will normally explore christian teachings (values, beliefs, stories) and may explore other faiths and beliefs alongside this. Reference is often made to wider issues that the news cycle may present.

2) Tutor Time reflection

Students, following a Friday assembly, are given a chance to discuss and explore the issues raised further through a group activity in their mixed year group tutor time. This is structured around a pattern of ‘Gather together’, ‘Explore and Share’, ‘Time to reflect’ and ‘A message to ponder’.

3) House Assemblies

House Assemblies are planned around the following structure

- Gather (Engage the students in the theme using a Hook line, a question, a story, a song etc)
- Explore (Expand on the theme, illustrations, anecdotes, scripture, readings, drama, film clips etc)
- Reflect (A single question and silence, a poem to contemplate, a song to listen to, a prayer to reflect on, a bible reading)
- Send (A hook line a question, a single thought – memorable, punchy, thought provoking)

They look to celebrate the life of the school, give opportunities to share and to reflect

4) Full School Services

The school has a strong link with Bristol Cathedral. The academic and calendar year begins with a service that include collective singing, an address, and a time of reflection/prayer. Each term ends with a distinctive Service; Christmas, Easter and, at the end of the year, a Commemoration service celebrates the founding of the school.

Services reflect and celebrate the Christian heritage and life of the school. Students make significant contributions, particularly through Music. All students are encouraged to participate. Services include Readings, prayers, an address and hymns, alongside other items that support the theme of the service.

5) In lessons

Staff take opportunities to provide opportunities for reflection and spiritual development, creating intentional and impromptu space to;

- Go **beyond** ourselves, to consider others, the world and our own beliefs and values
- Cultivate a sense of awe and wonder and to notice **beauty**
- Consider what things mean for our own sense of **being** and self.

6) Other Opportunities

As part of a wider faith community with the Cathedral, families are invited to join and explore the life and heritage of the Cathedral. With a multi-cultural schools, events are organised to celebrate and share other festivals in other religions.