

Policy Name:	BCCS Collective Worship Policy
Review Cycle:	Every three years
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Approved by / Date:	BCCS LGB – 28.11.2024

Date	Summary of Changes
Nov 2022	Minor updates
Sept 2024	Significant updates inline with the Church of England Guidance found https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf

BCCS Collective Worship Policy

Vision Statement

Bristol Cathedral Choir School is a school with a distinctive Christian ethos, reflected in its vision statement: ***Gathered together, that all may thrive***. Underpinned by the core values of **kindness, courage and hope**, all students are encouraged to explore their identity and potential as people made in the image of God: loved, accepted and valued. Because of its inclusive Christian ethos shared with the Cathedral, BCCS is a community that values and celebrates diversity in which everyone has a unique role to play, whatever their background.

Introduction

Collective worship aims to support all students and adults to have opportunities to flourish spiritually. It is a time to reflect upon and develop our distinctive christian character, and aspires to be invitational, inclusive, and inspirational to those of all faiths and none. It reflects and reinforces our vision and ethos of being a community drawn from across our city, where everyone can belong, and everyone can flourish. Our collective worship both implicitly and explicitly seeks to explore and invite students to reflect on our christian values of Kindness, Courage and Hope. It is an important part of our school day, a time where students consider what they believe and value about themselves, others and the world we live in. It is also a time to consider what lies beyond, exploring the transcendental and what gives meaning to the 'everyday'. Collective worship is central to seeing young people grow and flourish.

Under the Education Reform Act 1988 the school is required to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, broadly 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

Our intention is that all acts of Collective Worship are **inclusive**, invitational and inspirational, and an opportunity to care for our own wellbeing and spirituality, both as individuals and as a body of people. We want all in our community to feel they belong, regardless of culture, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality, neurodiversity or disability - that all are welcomed, valued and most importantly, that all are loved.

We value faith, and welcome those of all faiths and none into our unique and diverse community, recognising the many different faith backgrounds and cultures our students come from. It is a time to consent and dissent: to participate and to stand back, to consider and to question, as we are all at different stages in what we consider our spiritual journey.

Collective Worship will be **invitational**, offering opportunities for worship, prayer and reflection in a way that is open to all, regardless of faith and culture. All will have the freedom to be present and engage with integrity, no matter their own background and beliefs, and to think and reflect on what they believe and value is important, both for themselves



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and for others. We are intentional in recognising and celebrating significant religious events, helping bind us together as a community as we show we value and celebrate all faiths.

Prayer will always be invitational, and accompanied by the invitation to reflect. Worship will offer moments to lift our eyes beyond our own day to day, to look out across our world and to consider what might be beyond what we can see, hear and know.

Through exploring bible stories and teachings, ethical and moral issues, stories of faith and issues in our world, our worship will aim to **inspire** all in our community to live out lives that reflect our mission to *Gather together, that all may thrive, and our core values Kindness, Courage and Hope*. Whilst it will always be distinctively Christian in character, we will take opportunities to explore stories and teachings from other faiths where they align and support our christian ethos, as this will help those of different faiths and none to reflect on what they believe and value - We want to enable all students and staff to ask big questions, to be motivated to be courageous advocates of causes, and to think searchingly about our own faith, beliefs and/ or philosophical convictions.

Our Collective Worship aims to nurture spirituality, 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.

Opportunities for Collective Worship in practice

1) Cathedral Acts of Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship is the unique heartbeat of our school. When we meet together in the Cathedral, we step away from the day to day routines and pressures of school life and enter into our rhythm of worship, joining with the living community of the Cathedral who seek to follow Jesus, serve others, transform communities and worship God. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and are committed to offering all in our community a chance for an encounter with faith and with God in a way that is truly welcoming and inclusive, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief. Our Acts of Collective Worship in the Cathedral will be distinctively Christian in character, inviting students to reflect on our distinctive christian mission to be a community where all are welcomed and belong, and all may flourish, a place where we learn to live out our values of Kindness, courage and hope.

2) Tutor Time Reflections

The Tutor programme invites students to reflect on a daily basis. The programme includes time to celebrate the life of the school, explore EDI topics, take part in activities to grow community, consider future steps, and reflect on learning.

3) Year Group 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, giving opportunities to share and to reflect

5) Full School Services

At the end of each term, three times a year, we celebrate the major Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter, as well as celebrating and commemorating the founding of the School at the end of each Term. The school comes together to reflect and create a space for worship - services include readings, prayers / reflections, an address and hymns, alongside other items that support the theme of the service.

Students make significant contributions, particularly through Music. All students and staff are invited to attend and to engage with the service in whatever way they feel comfortable, whether to simply listen and reflect, or to take the opportunity to participate.

4) Other Opportunities

As part of a wider faith community with the Cathedral and the city, our students and families are invited to join and explore the life and heritage of the Cathedral, and are invited to events in the Cathedral such as Evensong and the services at significant times of year such as Christmas/Easter. As a multicultural school, we look to explore and celebrate all faiths, as well as raise awareness for issues of social justice that students and staff care about, through events such as a community Iftar, cultural diversity week, Pride events, and other equalities, inclusion and diversity issues, as this helps bring us together.



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Students are given space and opportunities to explore their own faith - for example Prayer rooms and the Christian Union. We encourage students to form groups if they want to and facilitate these where possible. Our links with the Cathedral provide additional pastoral support through the Canon Missioner for both students and staff.