THE WHITE ROSE FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY (BARLOW SCHOOL)

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Responsible officer			
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Signed:			
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Links to Other Policies	
RE Policy	

Barlow Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Jesus taught that he had come, 'that we might have life in all its fullness.' In celebration of this, Collective Worship is central to the life of Barlow Primary School, so that the whole school community might experience this for themselves. Every aspect of school life is informed by this central principle.

Our vision is 'One family, branching out together', and **our Federation is a safe and caring environment which allows our community to flourish and grow.** We nurture positive relationships, which lie at the heart of all that we do.

We believe in engaging pupils through challenging and inspiring learning opportunities, which are rooted in practical learning. We foster **independence and resilience, enabling each unique individual to fulfil their potential academically, socially, morally and spiritually, learning to become responsible members of our society.**

'For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'

(Romans 12 verse 4-5)

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Barlow Primary School, and celebrates the central role that each child must play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore, Collective Worship at Barlow Primary School:

- will be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values.
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, and Stillness.
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to."
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective Worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Legal requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated on the school website.

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from worship should contact the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school website.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

In keeping with the Statement of entitlement for Collective Worship from the Church of England Education Office, this policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, and inspiring in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Planning Collective worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities, such as our celebration assembly for parents, or our singing assemblies. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle, asking children to reflect quietly, and encouraging the children to lead us in prayer.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. Our School Worship Group meets once a half term led by the Worship Group lead in school. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought throughout the whole process of planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship. One of the school governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship through school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of Collective Worship planning. Worship leaders use the 'Twelve Baskets' and 'Roots and Fruits' schemes to aid in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship, along with the 'Picture News' programme to broaden the pupils' world view. The whole school meets once a day for worship, other than a Monday, when worship is conducted in class. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by our Federation RE Lead.

Children also have the opportunity to plan, deliver and evaluate Collective Worship. The worship group work closely with the RE lead to set the agenda for worship, and the children are involved in the implementation of daily Collective Worship.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole school worship is held four times a week. These are taken by class teachers and school leaders on a rota.

Class/Key Stage worship is held once a week. This session is taken by class teachers.

Visitors have included members of our local clergy, curriculum specialists who are visiting the school, and teachers and leaders from other schools in the Federation.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year also.

Collective Worship takes place each day in school in a whole-school, classroom setting. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other significant Saints' Days are celebrated occasionally. Whenever worship takes place, our aim is to enrich the rest of the school day and life outside school. Collective worship will usually include:

- a story or drama

- conversation between members of the school community
- a time for reflection/prayer
- a song.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals [Miss Nunn, Mr Rich, and Miss Yeomans] are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, are undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating Collective Worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York Chapel (SIAMS).