Bishop Ian Ramsey Church of England Primary School

Worship Policy

Ratified: October 2026
Review Date: October 2027

At Bishop Ian Ramsey Church of England Primary School, our vision is to provide excellent education in a caring community that enables everyone to 'Shine as a Light in the World, to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2:15).

The call to 'Shine as a Light in the World' is rooted in scripture, particularly in Philippians 2:15, when the apostle Paul urges followers of Jesus to use their gifts, to serve without grumbling and to value others above themselves. It is also the commission with which the newly baptised are sent out into the world, often with a lighted candle to symbolise the light of Christ present in and with them. It is a whole life calling, and our role in supporting and nurturing the early years of formal education is founded on this principle.

We are a Church of England school, founded on Christian beliefs, which are at the heart of our work and daily life. These are expressed through our core Christian values;

Trust
Respect
Compassion
Hope

These values run through everything we do, forming the basis for a secure, caring and happy environment which encourages everyone to 'shine their light'

Objective

In considering the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development our objective is to provide high quality worship that provides a unique space for stillness and reflection within the context of the school day.

Aims

As a church school, our worship will always be based on the Christian faith but will include reference to other faiths and belief systems.

Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

• to help children become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world around them.

• to help children to reflect on their own existence and the puzzling questions which life poses.
• to encourage children to encounter various kinds of language and symbols and to express their own feelings through them.
• strengthen and support the school and wider community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God.
• give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
• allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
• celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
• foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.
• respect and awareness of the diversity of belief within our own society and across the world.
• provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
❖ praise and reach out to God
❖ experience stillness and quiet
❖ respond to Christian language and symbolism
❖ experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include: praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, and quiet reflection.
❖ helping pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.

Our Approach

a) Worship will seek to build links with all dimensions of the curriculum, particularly making global links to promote equality and links to PSHE and other planned learning.
b) Opportunity will be given for pupils to reflect individually on spiritual issues.
c) Worship is accessible to all children who attend – where possible worship is tailored so that all children can understand and make a contribution.

Organisation of school worship

Worship offers an occasion to reflect on those things which inspire us with awe, wonder, gratitude or a sense of being a part of something much greater than ourselves.

- We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way.
- We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection.
- We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.
- We expect them to be quiet and thoughtful and to actively listen and to participate fully in prayer, reflection, discussion and hymns.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, lighting the candle, and other aids to help children focus.

Daily acts of worship occur for the whole school on four days a week, with different leaders, and for each class separately on the other day. Our children regularly take part in church services.

The whole school act of worship encourages a sense of whole school unity and a fostering of identity. It is a time to share and celebrate. This special time gives us an opportunity to encourage and guide our pupils to make right choices. We do this through the sharing of faith- based stories and activities, giving them a time to reflect upon what the message means to them. We firmly believe that it is a time for us to set our moral compass for the day and week ahead.

Sing a New Song

Once a week, we have 'Sing a New Song' where we worship through song. This is based on Psalm 105:2 Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all his wonderful acts. And Psalm 96:1 Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth. New songs and their meanings, which are linked to our values, are learnt and previous songs are refreshed. This still follows our format for collective worship.

Worship Leaders

Worship leaders are a group of Key Stage 2 children who form the worship committee. They support collective worship and also lead their own worship to the school.

School worship is organised accordingly:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Collective Worship - Launch of Picture News	**Open the Book**	**Sing a New Song**	**Picture News** – Reflection	**Celebration Collective Worship**
Where?	Hall	Hall	Hall	Classroom reflection sessions	Hall
Who?	Mrs Howes/ Worship Leaders	Open the Book	Miss Milner	Teacher/Worship Leaders	Mrs Howes or Miss Richards
When?	10:10-10:30am	10:10-10:30am	10:10-10:30am	10:10-10:30am	10:10-10:30am

It is our policy that our Collective Worship should take a variety of forms including:
(a) Whole school led by the SLT or a member of the teaching staff.
(b) Pupil led through the Collective worship leaders, where pupils on a voluntary basis lead the Collective worship through talk, story, reflection on the Collective Worship theme, linking it to our Christian Values and British Values.
(c) Sharing – individual children share their successes both social and academic with the whole school.
(d) Led by visitors, e.g. Open the Book Team, the Vicar, other Ministers and visitors.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children. Parents wishing to exercise this right should put their requests in writing to the Head Teacher. Teachers' rights are also safeguarded.