Birkenshaw C.E. (C) Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

'At Birkenshaw CE (C) Primary School, we care.'

The Christian value of caring underpins all that we do at Birkenshaw CE (C) Primary School. All people involved within our school community feel cared for, while, at the same time, being caring themselves.

.

We are a welcoming and supportive school where everyone feels valued and respected in a happy, safe and stimulating environment. We aim to serve the community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian ethos of care is at the heart of everything we do.

We pride ourselves on high standards and encourage everyone to become confident lifelong learners.

Aims

At Birkenshaw C.E. (C) Primary School, Collective Worship underpins our vision of care.

Through acts of Collective Worship we aim

- to enable children to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and to foster them in an attitude characterised by feelings such as care, humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils, the school as a whole, and the wider community;
- to promote a shared school vision and to reinforce positive attitudes, whilst acknowledging and respecting difference and diversity;
- to promote British values including Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- to provide opportunities for reflection and spiritual development which could be planned or spontaneous, shared or personal for each child/adult in school.

Links between Collective Worship and our School Vision

'At Birkenshaw CE (C) Primary School, we care.'

The Christian value of caring underpins all that we do at Birkenshaw CE (C) Primary School. All people involved within our school community feel cared for, while, at the same time, being caring themselves.

At Birkenshaw CE (C) Primary School we teach, offer and accept care. We know that many different values make up a pupil within our school and we believe that none of these values can be achieved without caring. Our Christian value of care will support and guide you to: have the best possible education; enjoy your time in school; better yourself and help you to make the world a better place.

Our School Vision and British Values will be regular themes in Collective Worship. When Worship is not directly focused on one of these themes they will still be important elements that encompass the worship. Collective Worship will offer opportunities for children to respect the beliefs shared and show care towards others. Both children and adults will be encouraged to reflect and contemplate honestly about issues that are important to them and others. Collective Worships will show how the Christian religion and other world religions enable its followers to feel happiness and an inner self-worth through a deep faith, conviction and trust. All who attend Collective Worships; children and adults will have the responsibility to actively participate, whether that be independently or collectively. Collective Worships will offer everyone the opportunity to empathise, reflect, pause and pray if they wish.

Collective Worship

The law says that all pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We usually base our Collective Worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Anglican Christian Church. Our Collective Worships are built on a wide range of themes with opportunities for Christian worship. However, we conduct our Collective Worships in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community. As a school we believe it is important to promote care and mutual respect for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship which can be either whole-school, Key Stage or Class Worship. Collective Worship plays an important part in promoting the

Christian ethos of the school, in which all children are valued as individuals, and all achievements are recognised.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage children to view this time as a period of reflection and spiritual development. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way, whether this is being quiet and thoughtful, by listening carefully, by contributing their ideas or by joining in with hymns and prayers.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles, pictures or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Collective Worships are normally conducted by the Headteacher, other members of staff or pupils and are also regularly led by local clergy and other visitors.

The Collective Worship Lead meets with groups of children, liaises with members of the local parish and other people who lead worship in school, when planning themes for worship. Themes will include links to our school vision, traditions and values of the Christian faith and festivals to mark the events of the Anglican Christian calendar, including Saints' days. Themes can be linked to school/ local/ national/ international events, the Church calendar, significant dates/ people/ times and religious events and British values. Collective Worship also gives us an opportunity to develop an understanding of significant festivals of other world faiths and to explore issues of significance to the children (e.g. friendship). Through the use of the wide variety of themes and topics, Collective Worship provides many opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, when children can interact in a religious or non-religious way.

Celebration Assemblies, on a Friday, provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements, celebrate success and for our school family to support each other through our shared vision of care . All parents and carers are invited to attend these as part of the wider school community, in order to share in and celebrate the children's successes.

Hymn Practice provides an opportunity to praise God through song and includes time for reflection.

Monday		
12:30pm or 3pm	**Class Worship**	(Led by class teachers or pupils)
Tuesday		
9:30am or 3pm	**Key Stage**	(Led by SLT)
Wednesday		
2.50pm	**Whole School**	(Led by Clergy, Headteacher, visitors,

pupils)

Thursday
9:30am or 3pm **Key Stage** (Led by SLT)

Friday **Key Stage**
9am or 2:50pm **Celebration Assembly** (Led by Headteacher)

Pupil Groups such as the School Council, Eco-Council, Digital Leaders and Care Crew may also deliver Collective Worships when themes are relevant.

Governors' attendance at our Collective Worship is always welcome.

Inclusion and Equality

Collective Worship is a statutory entitlement for all children, which we ensure reflects the school, local community and wider contemporary society. We provide collective worships that are inclusive for all pupils, so consideration in planning and structure are taken to enable all to access these.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the Collective Worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and review

Children, staff and Governors are involved in the monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship. They are given the opportunity to do this informally through reflection/evaluation notes and formally through a short report.

Monitoring the statutory requirement, policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of the Governors and Headteacher. The Foundation Governors liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governing Body.

Concerns and Complaints

Any concerns or complaints are handled under the school's concerns and complaints procedures. If an issue cannot be resolved, a complaint may be taken to SACRE, as the local authority's statutory body, at the appeal stage.

Visitors

We try to ensure a variety of visitors including:
Clergy (St Pauls Church, Birkenshaw)
Hand to Mouth Ministries (Diocese)
Visitors from other faiths
Zephania Trust
Visitors are informed of the theme for the Collective Worship at the beginning of the term, so that Collective Worship led by visitors still fits into the theme developing within the school at the time of their visit.

This policy links to the RE policy and Spiritual Development Policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Written: September 2016
Reviewed: January 2018
Reviewed : January 2020 (to go to Governors in March 2020)