

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy

WORSHIP POLICY

Aspire Believe Achieve

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher, and Governing Body of the Academy. No amendments can be made without their express instruction and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review date: May 2017
Next review date: May 2018
Reviewed by: Mr P Rawlinson

Date Approved by the Deputy Headteacher—15 May 2017

BISHOP RAWSTORNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY – OUR JOURNEY

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy has been providing high quality Christian education for over 50 years and it is this Christian message and ethos that underpins the core values that allow us to ensure that students are able to achieve a fully rounded academic, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Unlike other Church of England schools, Bishop Rawstorne is truly a community school with the vast majority of our students being drawn from main foundation parishes.

Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy is a truly outstanding educational establishment that is committed fully to meeting the individual needs of all of its students regardless of their ability within a caring, supportive environment that is embraced by the love of God and driven by His word. Academic achievement at GCSE is of a high order since the foundation of the school in the 1960 and enrichment opportunities for all of our students are varied, purposeful and integral to their personal growth and development. The staff at Bishop Rawstorne deliver a Teaching and Learning experience that has been judged to be outstanding, with some of the most innovative and creative practice in the country, all of which is supported by the Teaching School's rich programme of Professional Development. Collegiate partnership is at the centre of the strategic development of Bishop Rawstorne with a key role being played in the conception, integration and delivery of the strategies that will underpin excellent practice at local, regional and national level. The school enjoys very close links with a large number of community partners, including many local churches, and believes that this area will continue to diversify and expand. The fabric of the school has altered a great deal in the past 57 years but the foundations were, are and will always be the Christian messages of the Bible, the core values that we promote of love, tolerance, respect, understanding and faith in His word.

The school has grown and evolved constantly, and whilst able to recognise and celebrate its many successes, the Governing Body and Headteacher do not and will not allow complacency to be a part of our community. The energy, passion and drive to keep our Christian school at the cutting edge of excellence with an experienced leadership ready to meet the challenge and make the change are fundamental to maintaining the highest standards. (It was therefore the unequivocal view of the Governing Body, the Senior Leadership of the school, its staff and stakeholders in the academic year 2010-2011 that conversion to Academy status would allow the school and all its students and staff to achieve its vision to lead an extended family of schools, at the forefront of innovative practice, providing strategic leadership and management). Each and every student has the intrinsic right to be nurtured academically and guided spiritually, whilst continuing to share the core Christian values that lie at the very heart of our day-to-day school life.

CONTEXT

Collective Worship and RE naturally complement and enrich one another. Worship is a major aspect of the curriculum as a whole at Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy.

Collective Worship is at the heart of daily life in our school and staff and Trustees see it as an essential part of all our students spiritual education.

School Worship is a central aspect of our community life which is regarded as a vital expression of our nature: it sets into context everything else we do as an institution.

As a Church of England Academy our constitution reflects our commitment to both RE and Collective Worship to be delivered "in accordance with the rites and practices of the Church of England".

Our four main objectives are:

1. To use the particular opportunities provided by the curriculum of a Church school to sustain and nurture the things of the Spirit: courage, justice, love, hope, awe, joy, patience, freedom and responsibility. These are to be linked to our six Christian values (for Schools) which underpin everything we do at Bishop Rawstone.
2. To nurture links between school, home, parish and local community, especially through the Chaplaincy Team with the Youth Worker/Chaplain having responsibility for our youth work.
3. To engage students in opportunities to explore 'answers' to those ultimate questions of human existence as individuals, as members of society and of the world-wide community.
4. To foster in our students the notion that all people are of infinite value to God and that as a community we treat each individual with dignity and respect.

The Governors' and Trustees' Admissions' Policy reflects the initial intentions of the foundation of this school to serve the children of the five parishes regardless of Church affiliation. Beyond that boundary, the Governors seek some commitment to the Christian foundation. This means that many of our students are here because it is a Church School, but the majority are here because it is the local community school.

POLICY

The nature of our student population requires the delivery of this aspect of our work to be sensitive to the students we serve, respecting their integrity, whilst allowing them the opportunity for spiritual growth and, where appropriate, nurture. Some Acts of Collective Worship can be, and are, specifically Anglican; others are much more broadly Christian. Within this overall framework the following aims for school worship may be served:

- to provide an experience of worship that will allow students to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance including festivals.
- to share opportunities to learn about the teachings of Jesus.
- to help students to understand the meaning of the Christian year.
- to appreciate the Church building and what it represents.
- to familiarise students with aspects of many different types of Christian worship, particularly Anglican.
- to experience different forms of, and approaches to worship.
- to encourage an appreciation of symbol, music, dance, drama, silence, and meditation within the context of worship.
- to share communal concerns such as celebrating achievement, coping with grief.
- to contribute to the spiritual development of students by offering opportunities for stillness, reflection, prayer, wonder, thankfulness.
- to "offer up" our work to God.
- to provide opportunity for nurture, for believers to worship and for others to be brought to the threshold of worship.
- to develop links with our local Churches (Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist) and local charities.
- to foster a sense of responsibility towards the world-wide community.
- to explore and reflect on their own beliefs and values.
- to reflect upon the values and beliefs held by other religions.
- to promote community cohesion.
- to instil in members of the school community a sense of self-worth, value and their God-given potential.

LEGAL STATUS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place.

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all students at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to deliver high quality acts of Collective Worship to fulfil this requirement.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all students or separate acts of worship for students in groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day but is usually held between 2.00 and 2.15pm.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Academy Trustees in consultation with the Headteacher, the SLT and our Lead Teacher for RE. All acts of Collective Worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in Circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that students will have the opportunity to explore:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

Acts of Collective Worship at Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy take into account the students' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds and reflect and celebrate the Christian faith foundation of the school.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be marked by the lighting of a candle and the recognised words of welcome from 'Common Worship', "The Lord be with you. And also with you."

CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The Clergy from the Foundation and Named Parishes are fully active participants in the worshipping life of Bishop Rawstorne. Since April 2009 they have worked with us to enhance the Christian community within Bishop Rawstorne.

Reverend Janet Taylor	Year 7	United Benifice of Croston, Bretherton & Mawdesley with Bishpham
TBC	Year 8	St James' Church, Leyland
Reverend Michael Woods	Year 9	United Benifice of Croston, Bretherton & Mawdesley with Bishpham
Reverend Marc Woverson	Year 10	St James' Church, Leyland
Reverend Andrew Brown	Year 11	St Mary the Virgin, Eccleston
Peter Rawlinson	SLT	Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy
Kathleen Cooper	Governor	

WORSHIP SERVICES

The Chaplaincy Team undertake the planning and delivery of the programme of worship over and above daily collective worship. These are opportunities for the school to mark significant moments in both the Christian calendar and the life of the school. Most services are held in school or at St Michael & All Angels Church in Croston, while others may take place further afield. These Services vary in style and content, some being Eucharistic.

Autumn Term: Year 7 Welcome Day, Founder's Day, & Christmas.

Spring Term: Ash Wednesday

Summer Term: Easter, Year 11 Leavers' Day, an end of school year/beginning of summer break.

DAILY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

A programme for Collective Worship is published termly with a theme for each week. As per the diocesan guidelines, we refer to these times as 'Worship', as they represent a real opportunities for worship, reflection, spiritual.

This programme includes:

- a weekly opportunity for year groups to come together and celebrate God's love and embrace His message. As part of this, specific focuses are placed on Advent and Lent when these seasons approach.
- this programme includes a wide and rich variety of resources to support tutor groups in worshipping together. These times of worship take place in tutor group bases, and are led by either the tutor, or a member of the tutor group. There is a significant multimedia resource to further support these times on the school intranet. Specific Christian celebrations are observed during these times including Epiphany, Ascension and Pentacost.

Worship includes:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artefacts and natural materials
- students' contributions
- visual images and film
- Clear examples of Jesus' teachings.

Collective Worship will:

- have a clear message, based on the teachings of Jesus and the Christian faith.
- follow the core values of care, respect and responsibility
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve all the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input
- contribute to SMSC development

ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF WORSHIP

We have a wide variety of activities and worship styles that are appropriate to the needs of our students. This broadened provision has proven popular with the student cohort. Visitors and bands etc from various backgrounds are available to offer these opportunities.

VISITORS AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

It is important that the wider community is involved in the life of the school. It is therefore part of Bishop Rawstorne Collective Worship policy that parents, Trustees, local religious leaders, the school's ancillary staff and local people are invited to join in the school's Collective Worship whenever possible. This strengthens the fact that worship at Bishop Rawstorne is unifying and a cohesive force.

INDUCTION AND INSET

As a vibrant Christian community we provide significant induction to new staff to fully share with them the Christian values of our school, their place at the centre of our daily lives and how we worship collectively to enhance spiritual growth.

Peter Rawlinson as Deputy Headteacher makes a contribution to the induction programme for new colleagues to outline school policy and to alert them to the support that is available.

An opportunity for staff and chaplains to share in Holy Communion on the Inset Day before the beginning of the year is a much valued feature, confirming our belief that we cannot be involved in promoting the spiritual development of students unless we are open to spiritual growth ourselves.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

This is about the building, by students, of a framework of moral values which regulates their personal behaviour. It is also about the development of students' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about understanding that there are issues where there is disagreement and it is also about understanding that society's values change. Moral development is about gaining an understanding of the range of views and the reasons for the range. It is also about developing an opinion about the different views.

The school aims to develop in students a moral stance which is based on Christian ideals of love, justice, peace, truth, compassion, redemption and forgiveness based on an awareness of others as made in the image of God. We seek to develop in students an understanding of these values and encourage putting them into practice.

All colleagues face the challenge of providing the best possible expression of Christian living. We believe that both adults and students can be supported in their aim to live by these Christian values through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The school aims to provide opportunities for students to develop an understanding of:

- right and wrong.
- the need for shared values and codes of conduct.
- the necessity of self-discipline and a loving concern for others.
- the connection between beliefs and behaviour, especially in relation to the Gospel.
- the importance of standing up for our Christian values despite pressures to relinquish them.

In order to communicate these Christian values to students, they will be provided with opportunities to develop the following attitudes and skills:

- appreciating the feelings and concerns of others.
- developing and sustaining relationships.
- reflecting on questions of right and wrong and on their own values.
- discussing their own feelings and beliefs.
- listening with respect to the views of others.
- discussing and debating issues rationally and sensitively.
- exercising care and responsibility for others.

The exploration of moral issues and of Christian teaching in relation to them will of course be encouraged during Collective Worship and R.E., but they will also be rightly found in every other subject area on the curriculum. The school provides guidance to teachers in the area of Sex Education under a separate policy.

The school recognises and affirms good behaviour and conduct, or commitment and service to the community, through its systems of rewards. Records of Achievement are kept by students where they can file certificates of merit, service to school, service to the wider community and so on. These achievements are celebrated during the acts of Collective Worship. The annual 'Achievement Assembly' in the summer term is an opportunity for the whole school to recognise students who have made a valuable contribution to school life living out its values and beliefs.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

DAY	YEAR GROUP	SLT
MONDAY	10	TBA
TUESDAY	11	TBA
WEDNESDAY	9	TBA
THURSDAY	8	TBA
FRIDAY	7	TBA

Acts of Collective Worship in the hall are normally led by the Senior Leader, Pastoral Care or Heads of Year (a member of the SLT is assigned to each Year Group) and participates in the weekly worship with their assigned group.

On those days when a Year tutor group is not in an Act of Collective Worship it is expected that the group tutor will develop/discuss the theme for the week with the tutor group allowing:

- the group tutor to develop/discuss the theme of the week with their tutor group allowing students the opportunity to reflect on the ideas he/she has heard that week.
- Students to develop/discuss the theme for the week with an opportunity to lead and reflect on the ideas heard that week.

Tutor Group Worship takes place once a week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local, national or international events.

CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING

The implementation of the policy will continue to be undertaken by all colleagues, particularly those listed below and will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher after consultation with the Trustees of the Academy.

Mr P Cowley	Headteacher
Mr P Rawlinson	Deputy Headteacher/Line Manager Chaplaincy & Worship
TBC	Lead Teacher, Religious Education
Mr A Duckworth	Senior Leader, Pastoral Care
Mr A Marston	Chair of Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy Trust

The school seeks to involve students in the evaluation of Collective Worship. Questionnaires involving students and parents will be conducted as part of the evaluation of Collective Worship. Members of the student body, one from each tutor group, have taken on the role of Worship Representative. They support their tutors on leading worship and the Chaplain in planning, leading and evaluating worship. They also seek the views of their classmates and report these to the Chaplaincy Team who act to better meet the needs of students in worship. The Student Council will also bring thoughts and feedback on worship to the attention of the Chaplaincy Team.