



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by Governing Body:	Autumn 2026
Last reviewed:	September 2026
Next review:	September 2027

A POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our Vision

At Brierley, God guides us as one family.
We learn, grow, and shine together in our community,
Nurturing hope, resilience, aspiration and forgiveness
Everyone is loved, celebrated and supported to flourish.
Living God's love through our words, actions,
And journey beyond our school,
Following the example of Jesus.
Though we are many, we are one body,
Together we learn and grow.

What is the legal position with regard to collective worship?

As a controlled school, Collective Worship is determined by the Trust Deeds and is in accordance with the principles of the established church.

1. There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils at the school.
2. Parents may withdraw their children, and teachers may opt out from participating in them.
3. Most acts of worship in a term are to be broadly Christian in character but approached in a way as to meet different needs.
4. Account must be taken of
 - a) circumstances relating to the pupil's family background
 - b) ages and aptitudes of pupils.
5. Responsibility for worship lies with the governing body after consultation with the head teacher.

Why worship?

We believe that the experience of stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of importance in promoting spiritual development. It is important to find time to explore and reflect upon such experiences.

Our aim is to help children to understand what belief means to believers, and unless children experience religious practices, they will find this hard to understand.

How do we worship?

Although it is a Church of England (controlled) school, our school is open to people of different religions and denominations, or of no religious belief at all.

Activities in worship vary from the traditional prayers, hymns, stories and readings to

activities which encourage the children to respond in different ways, e.g.

- Reflect on the purpose of, or issues in life.
- Explore a religious idea through an experience.
- Learn from the experience of others.

- Celebrate what Christians, along with those of other religions, consider to be good things in life.
- Provide opportunities for those who wish to worship to do so

What kind of material do we use in worship?

Our worship is in accordance with the traditions of Christian belief. The children are led towards an awareness of basic Christian beliefs and traditions and encouraged to respond in a variety of ways. Within this context we also incorporate respect for other beliefs, which the children will come across at some time in a multi-cultural society, as well as non-belief. We do this in a positive way by emphasising the many underlying values which are common to most of society.

We must take the background and experience of all children into consideration, which means that we take what the children are familiar with as a starting point. We try to present the children with a variety of subjects and activities which will provoke “worshipful responses” such as “awareness”, “respect for”, “Appreciation of”, as well as in some children, deeper responses such as “commitment”, “devotion” and “adoration”. Material may not always be taken from Christian or even a religious tradition providing it reflects the traditions of Christian belief.

Organisation

Worship takes place daily. We consider it important to worship as a whole school “family” on some days, and on other occasions to divide into key stage groups to enable worship to suit the ages and understanding of children. On occasions when the school hall is out of commission, worship takes place in class groups.

Worship begins with the sign of the cross and follows the “Gather, Engage, Respond and Send” format.

A member of the clergy takes assemblies regularly based around our Christian value for that term, and committed people from other churches/denominations are welcomed – eg Pentecostal, Methodist and ‘Open the Book’ to lead or take part in worship. Parents are invited to end of term services, which normally involve the children playing a leading role.

As part of the partnership with our church of St Paul’s we make provision to participate in church worship throughout the year, often with year groups joining together with the parish’s worshipping community to celebrate feasts and holidays.

There is a Collective Worship folder outlining the plan for the academic year for staff to record areas that have been covered, as well as the opportunities for reflection and “stilling” that take place. We recognise the importance of evaluating the quality of worship so as to impact upon future work.

We have Pupil Worship Ambassadors. This is to hear the ‘pupil voice’ and establish ownership of aspects of worship. The Committee help to organise our daily worship – choosing prayer

readers from other classes, displaying a slide show of the half-termly Christian value, arranging entry and exit music and assisting with our weekly hymn selection.

Our Christian Values are displayed continually as a reminder for staff and children that these values should be integral to the daily life of the school.

Worship Themes

Our Christian Values are:

Community, Love, Hope, Resilience, Aspiration and Forgiveness.

Each Christian value lasts for half a term.

Appropriate music is used to support these themes and helps establish the necessary ethos for worship. Hymns and seasonal songs are linked to the values and themes.

An area to celebrate worship and Religious Education is set up in each classroom and these can reinforce Christian values.

Other areas, inside school and out, allow children opportunities to pray, write prayers and have spiritual moments as appropriate. Our Christian messages reflect the general values and beliefs of society.

AUTUMN TERM

Christian Values: Community and Love

Harvest

Sharing - doesn't always diminish what we have e.g. love multiplies if we give it away.

Reaping only what we sow.

Stewardship. God gave man stewardship over the earth - we are responsible for looking after it.

Gratitude - Recognising what God has done for us starts with valuing what our fellow men do for us.

Hindu Festival of Diwali

New year festival during which lights are of significance. (October/November).

Link with general religious significance of light.

Armistice Day (11th November)

Sacrifice for the good of others in all wars.

Hanukkah - Jewish celebration of the temple in Jerusalem being won back from the Syrian Greeks.

Eight candles are lit to celebrate.

St Andrew's Day (30th November)

Advent/Christmas

SPRING TERM

Christian Values: Hope and Resilience

New Year - links - Chinese New Year - end of January.

New beginnings. China - wish for prosperity.

Ramadan (Muslim - beginning of February) Self discipline/ fasting. - Lasts a month so perhaps link with Easter work on sacrifice. Ends with charity giving and community festival of Eid-UI-Fitr

Lent and Easter (*Shrove Tuesday, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday.*)

Passover (Jewish)

SUMMER TERM

Christian Values: Aspiration and Forgiveness.

Pentecost