DDAT

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

DDAT Collective Worship Policy

January 2025

This policy was approved by the Trust Board on: 10 February 2025

To be reviewed February 2027.

DDAT Vision and Values

Our Vision for Derby Diocesan Academy Trust is to nurture and empower everyone to reach their fullest potential, supporting each other on this journey. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we cultivate a vibrant learning community where children and young people flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our mission and vision flow from the Church of England's vision for education, which emphasises the development of wisdom, knowledge, and skills; hope and aspiration; community and living well together; and dignity and respect. Together, as a community rooted in Christian faith and education, we embrace the abundant possibilities of "Life in all its fullness"

We do this through five values – Inclusivity, Integrity, Community, Excellence and Courage.

Policy Statement

DDAT and Bakewell C of E Infant School we are committed to high-quality Collective Worship which embodies and lives out the Christian vision and Biblical narrative each day.

The Bakewell C of E Infant School vision is distinctively Christian in nature and reflects the school's foundation.

Our vision is to '**Be a light for others so people will see God in the good things we do'** Bakewell Infant School is a place where every child can shine, and we follow our values of always being Safe, Ready and Kind to be a light for others.

Legal Requirements

Legislation requires schools to conduct a daily act of Collective Worship.

"... Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. (DfE Circular 1/94 para 57)

Collective Worship recognises that every participant is part of the collective, but there is no assumption that all have the same beliefs and values. Collective Worship should be:

"Appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes." (DfE Circular 1/94 p.22)

Therefore, Collective Worship in Church of England schools must be inclusive and invitational of all participants.

The main legal requirements for Collective Worship are:

• Collective Worship in a church school should be carried out in accordance with the school's founding trust deed, and in accordance with the school's Ethos Statement, which is to be found in the statutory Instrument of Government

• the school must provide an act of Collective Worship for all pupils every day

• this act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g., whole school, key stage or class unit.

• a statement must be included in the school prospectus that makes it clear parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds. A similar statement should appear in the Collective Worship policy document. The 'religious grounds' do not have to be justified and explained by the parents. Should children be withdrawn, the school must provide adequate supervision to ensure their safety.

*Children should **not** be withdrawn from Collective Worship for other purposes, e.g., reading, music lessons, to do so is to break the law.*

(From Derby Diocesan Board of Education Guidelines for Collective Worship, 2022)

Principles of Collective Worship

Aims and Objectives of Policy and Collective Worship

Through collective worship, we aim to:

- Provide opportunities for all (pupils, staff and the wider school community) to encounter and engage with Christian worship
- Explore the school's distinctive Christian vision and values
- Develop understanding of Christian beliefs, traditions, and practices
- Develop an understanding of the Trust and School Vision and Values and how these contribute to living "life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)
- Foster spiritual growth and personal reflection
- Build community and shared values across our schools
- Support moral and social development
- Celebrate and share in times of joy
- Provide comfort and support in times of difficulty
- Enable participants to explore their own beliefs and questions of faith
- Provide collective worship that is inclusive, invitational and inspiring - in line with the Church of England guidance – (2021) https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching. For example, "Christians believe…" rather than "we believe".

- **Invitational** – Our acts of worship will be consistently invitational. There is no compulsion. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with and treat others with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

- **Inspiring** – Acts of Worship will be formational and transformational. By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action or to think differently. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. Collective worship will inspire pupils to act and become courageous advocate of causes.

Implementation

Collective worship in Bakewell C of E Infant School is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship takes place in the school hall as a whole school or in classrooms in key stages when appropriate. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using Roots and Fruits which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Collective Worship and assembly are both key aspects of school life but serve distinct purposes.

- **Collective Worship** is a legally required activity in UK schools, intended to provide pupils with an opportunity for spiritual reflection, with a broadly Christian character. It should be inclusive, allowing all to engage in a way that is meaningful to them, regardless of faith background.
- **Assembly** is a gathering for school-wide communication, celebration, or educational purposes. It may include messages about school values,

achievements, or social themes but does not necessarily have a religious or spiritual focus.

While collective worship can take place within an assembly, the two are not synonymous, as assemblies may also cover secular topics without any worship element.

We foster links with Bakewell All Saint's Church, involving the incumbent in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and school and visit at least 3 times per year as part of the Christian calendar.

Collective worship timetable

Monday **Whole school worship following the resource Roots and Fruits- Worship monitors light the candles and lead the welcome, followed by learning, reflection, responding and prayer.**

Tuesday **Classroom based learning task such as writing, drawing or drama based on our whole school Roots and Fruits worship that week, reflection time and prayer.**

Wednesday **Whole School values based story time worship based on our Christian value of the term and British values. Worship monitors light the candles and lead the welcome. Pupils invited to participate in the story telling and ask questions. Followed by reflection time and prayer.**

Thursday **Picture News in classrooms for EYFS and KS1 to learn about British values and current events around the world including thinking time, sharing time, reflection and ending with our school prayer.**

Friday **Whole school celebration and sharing worship time including rewards based on our school vision and values.**

Worship monitors light the candles and lead the welcome. Opportunity to reflect on our week in school and celebrate successes.

Worship monitors choose who has been a light for others this week and lead the award for this by reading out their certificate and Presenting our school star 'Sparkle'.

***parents and carers invited half termly to Celebration worship time. Worship monitors light the candles and welcome, sharing and celebration time including worship monitors choosing and leading the award for being a light for others 'God's little star award'**

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: music, silence, story, prayer, symbolism, drama and the use of IT.

Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England, therefore:

- we use the Bible as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture. We also introduce them to a variety of well- known prayers, many of which express the central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- we use aspects of Anglican liturgy to create a framework for worship. We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals. This clear framework also helps demarcate worship from assembly.
- we aim to provide a Collective Worship space which is attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.
- we foster links with our local, CE Parish Church, involving parish clergy in leading collective worship and providing coherence between worship in church and academy and visit for weekly services as part of the Christian calendar.
- Recognising the Anglican Communion is part of a global church, we promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations

Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced through this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to Bakewell C of E Infant School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Collective Worship is inclusive and as such is open to those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. Parents who wish to withdraw their child/children should make an appointment to meet with the Headteacher. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw children from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

Connections to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

We recognise that progression in SMSC is fostered across the curriculum. However, Collective Worship provides a significant moment in the school day to deepen pupils' Moral, Social and Cultural knowledge and their Spirituality. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others. The children at Bakewell C of E Infant School enjoy weekly 'Picture News' This is a resource for schools that uses real-world current affairs to help children learn and explore global issues. It is a carefully planned and engaging way to make complex news stories accessible and engaging for young children, fostering critical thinking, discussion, and a sense of global awareness.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring activities by school leaders, staff, pupils and local academy committee members to further grow and develop collective worship. Regular attendance of collective worship gives opportunity to evaluative the content, the style of delivery and provision. A whole school view is then considered by use of staff feedback and pupil voice questionnaires. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared during local academy committee meetings and play and integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

The impact of collective worship is then independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS) Inspections conducted by the Church of England. Further details can be found here.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate.

Implementation of Policy

The Headteacher and Collective Worship Leader is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Appendices

To support school leaders, links to the Derby Diocesan Board of Education Guidance on Collective Worship are here.

Appendix B	Acts of Collective Worship – Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
Appendix C	Visitors leading Collective Worship
Appendix D	Children participating in the organization and planning of Collective Worship
Appendix E	Colours of the Christian Year