



## **BURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

### **POLICY FOR WORSHIP**

#### **CHRISTIAN VALUES**

As a Church of England High School, our Christian ethos leads us to value the spiritual dimension in life. The 'Believe' strand of our values includes the value of faith. This is the ability to be certain of things we do not see. It is through worship that we are able to develop this value in our lives and so grow in confidence and self-belief. It is through worship that we can connect with the unseen, whether that is in a general sense of love or empathy with others, or in a more Christian sense of engagement with the unseen God.

"A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks" Jn 4:23

#### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

This policy sets out the framework for collective worship at Bury CE High School, its content and its aims. It is the intention of Bury CE High School to provide all those within its community with the opportunity to engage in worship throughout the school year. This worship is collective worship. That is to say that there is no presumption of faith placed upon those who participate. The collective worship should be structured so that it enables all present to come to the threshold of worship and allows those who wish to engage in worship to do so in a broadly Christian manner.

#### **THE PLACE OF WORSHIP IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

The school's Trust Deeds refer to its Voluntary Aided status, and its foundation, and commission it to provide an education within the framework of the 'principles and practices of the Established Church', that is the Church of England.

Our Mission Statement confirms the centrality of worship in the life and work of the school. Collective worship has an essential role to play in maintaining and promoting the school's ethos and in affirming, celebrating and exploring the Christian values that are important to the school.

Worship takes place within the wider context of the school's traditional links with Bury Parish Church, St. Mary the Virgin, its developing partnership with other parishes and churches of other Christian denominations within the deaneries the school serves and the wider Diocese of Manchester. School worship is broadly Christian in character with an Anglican flavour, but inclusive of all Christian traditions.

#### **THE ANGLICAN PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE WORSHIP OF THE SCHOOL IS BASED**

It is intended that school worship should reflect essential features within the broad traditions of Anglicanism and draw upon key elements of our rich Anglican heritage.

- Using the bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- Reflecting on Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Anglican year as set out in the lectionary
- Using Anglican liturgies and forms of worship, reflecting the world wide nature of the Anglican Church.

- Recognising the central significance of Holy Communion whilst acknowledging the value of other forms of worship
- Using collects, responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians through the ages and which are drawn from forms of worship of the worldwide Anglican communion
- Providing opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence in Christian worship
- Recognising the Anglican church's commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed, eg when members of other churches are invited to lead worship
- Experiencing the bond of community which embraces and celebrates the diversity of gender, age, race and religious opinion as expressed through the range of visitors who attend or lead school worship
- Sharing in a commitment to dialogue with other faiths and cultures
- Accepting honest questioning and encouraging a pursuit of the truth

## **THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

This School policy conforms to the legal requirements concerning worship.

1. An act of worship will be provided each day for each pupil, unless parents have requested that a pupil be wholly or partly excused from worship.  
  
The importance of worship in the life of the school is made clear to parents who apply for their children to be admitted. Should parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw children from worship they are requested to discuss their position with the Headteacher.
2. The whole school will meet together regularly for worship. At other times pupils will gather in forms or year groups. The act of worship will be distinctive and identifiable.  
The school will worship in Church at least once per term.
3. Overall responsibility for worship arrangements rests with the governing body after consultation with the Head and the Worship Review Group.

## **THE AIMS FOR WORSHIP**

The school aims to be a worshipping and worship-enabling community and intends that collective worship will be part of a child's learning and development at the school. The integrity and faith stance of each individual will be respected.

It is recognised that those from other faith traditions may choose to come to the threshold of worship to observe how Christian worship takes place, without engaging in that worship themselves.

It is acknowledged that the experience of worship for some will be tentative and exploratory.

For those who already have a Christian commitment, worship will be a natural outcome of belief, and a place where their deepest thoughts and emotions can be expressed in communion with God.

The acts of collective worship should be such that, whoever is physically present may gain enrichment from the experience and can engage to the depth that they choose, feeling safe, secure and relaxed in the collective worship activity.

Collective worship should reflect the global nature of the Anglican communion worldwide in all its richness and diversity, alongside the wider global Christian community with its varied expressions of the God who is Trinity, and who has revealed Himself uniquely in the person of Jesus Christ.