



# Collective Worship Policy

## The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust



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Bulphan C of E Academy, Fen Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3RL  
The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust is a company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in England No 8709542. Registered Office 53, New Street Chelmsford CM1 1AT

*'God's word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for our path.'* Inspired by Psalms  
119.105

## Collective Worship Policy

At Bulphan C of E Academy we celebrate the uniqueness of every child of God in a Christian Community and encourage them to flourish and shine in all they do, preparing them for life's journey. Our school has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the heart of the school and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment shaped by our core Christian values of Love, Friendship, Perseverance, Respect, and Wisdom.

We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We value this special time in the school day and seek to make it a quality experience for all members of our school community, be they of faith or of no faith.

### Statutory Requirements

It is a statutory requirement that collective worship takes place daily in all schools. All members of staff have the right to withdraw themselves from collective worship and parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. In both circumstances, an appointment should be made to speak with the Head of School and alternative provision will be made.

As a Church of England Academy, our collective worship broadly reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Bulphan C of E Academy, we ensure flexibility in our provision to enable all pupils and members of staff to benefit without compromising their own individual beliefs.

### Aims

Collective worship at Bulphan C of E Academy aims to achieve the following goals:

- Collective worship should be **inclusive**: it engages everyone present in his/her own way
- Collective worship should be **curricular**: it shows appropriate links with classroom activities, the curriculum and school life
- Collective worship should be **educational**: it develops children's ideas about God, about themselves and the world around them
- Collective worship should be **reflective**: it offers breathing space to be still, to wonder, to be uplifted, to nurture an awareness of God
- Collective worship should be **central** to school life

*[Adapted from - Breathing Space: Collective Worship Guidelines for Church Schools in the Diocese of Chelmsford]*

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## **Provision**

The leadership team work closely with Rev David Ibiayo and Rev Sue Mann to put together a comprehensive Worship Schedule for the school year. This includes a 'theme' for each term. These themes explicitly link to our school values so that children explore, encounter and experience our values within the context of the Christian faith through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Our values are: Love, Friendship, Perseverance, Wisdom and Respect.

## **Pupil Involvement**

Through pupil involvement in the planning, evaluation and delivery of worship, we strive to inspire a high level of pupil spiritual and moral engagement in collective worship. Pupil involvement takes many forms, including:

- Pupils from every class are invited to actively take part in worship. The children are encouraged to use props, wear costumes and join in with bible stories.
- The Head boy and Head girl light the candle and say the 'welcome' at the beginning of every worship.
- Worships are often highly interactive and pupils are invited to come to the front of the hall to support the member of staff or visitor.
- Every child joins in with the welcome, response at the beginning of every worship and every child joins in with the Lord's Prayer at the end of every worship.
- Children in year 6 are invited to join the school's Prayer Group if they would like to. These pupils meet weekly with a member of staff to discuss the week's theme, they prepare the hall for worship every day and they evaluate the worship. The Prayer Group give feedback to the member of staff leading worship.
- Children are asked to make suggestions about the choice of worship songs.
- Children write and read their own prayers in both school Worship and Church services.
- Children are invited to lead prayers in class, for example before lunch and during class worship.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At Bulphan C of E Academy, the leadership team monitor and evaluate collective worship as well as the Prayer Group. Information is gathered in a variety of ways so that monitoring can be as informative as possible.

Methods for monitoring include:

- Individual pupil questionnaires
- Governor evaluations
- Parent questionnaires
- Pupil reflections

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- Informal discussions with children around the school
- Weekly meetings with school's Prayer Group

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