



Broomhaugh C of E First School **Worship Policy**

The place of Worship in the life of Broomhaugh Church of England First School

Worship lies at the heart of our life in school. All that we do is based upon a foundation consisting of an awareness of God's love and truth in Jesus Christ.

Acts of worship seek to focus this awareness in different ways every day, through prayer and praise, through silence and reflection, through reading the Bible and applying it to our lives. Acts of worship vary in duration but are generally between 10 and 20 minutes.

Our aim is to promote spiritual development in this Christian context, to create a sense of belonging in a community of faith and to encourage the practice of the Christian values of forgiveness, respect, friendship, thankfulness and truth.

Acts of Collective Worship at Broomhaugh First School are entirely Christian in nature. At other times, there may be assemblies that demonstrate how other religions engage in worship and what other religions believe. But our daily acts of worship are of an Anglican character, and are entirely Christian in content.

How Collective Worship is organised

Acts of worship take place in the school hall, classrooms or in St. James' Church.

A daily act of worship is not compulsory for children in the Foundation Stage but they engage in prayer and Christian worship at a level appropriate to their development.

We believe it is healthy to provide a variety of worship experiences, to give the children a broader understanding of the different ways of engaging in Christian worship.

Each half term, acts of worship are delivered using the Simply Collective Worship scheme. This is a four year cycle. Throughout the week worship can include a Bible reading, songs, drama, interactive story telling, visual presentations, message about Christian service and time for reflection.

Our Worship in the whole school setting helps create a special atmosphere:

- Children calmly enter the hall
- Music is played or a song is sung
- A cross and candle is present on the worship table
- The candle is lit at the beginning of worship and an Anglican response is used

- Christian songs are sung reflecting both the traditional and the contemporary Christian music scene
- Times for silent prayer and reflection are included
- A Bible text is used to match the weekly theme

The school holds acts of worship in the church building for the special festivals Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The events are well attended by families and the community.

Staff Involvement

Throughout the term, all members of the teaching team lead acts of worship on a rota system. All members of the school community are invited to worship and we always begin the week together. The special festivals, such as Christmas and Easter are celebrated by all.

The children enjoy Open the Book, which is delivered by parish members at least once a term, and pupils enjoy leading worship through prayer and special services.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Broomhaugh C of E First School is an inclusive school and acts of worship reflect this. We incorporate a global dimension into worship and ensure visual images represent our diverse heritage. We encourage children to lead prayers and we choose songs from across all continents.

Our worship is drawn from the traditions and liturgy of the Anglican Communion worldwide, and we seek to be ecumenical, to include people from all the Christian denominations and all cultures. People of other or no faith are also made truly welcome in worship.

We seek to include every child in acts of Christian worship. We recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship and this is respected.