

*"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11

# Bury C of E Primary School

## Worship Policy



Written: Autumn 2025

Date for review: Autumn 2028

Head Teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of governor's signature \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Introduction**

At Bury Church of England Primary School we believe it is important to meet together regularly as a community to reinforce community values and to worship together. The character of worship in the school is Christian with references to other faiths when appropriate. Collective worship is coordinated by the headteacher and a variety of themes and activities are used to ensure high quality experience for all the children regardless of family background.

Our assemblies are primarily based upon our core school Christian Values of: **courage, humility, compassion, perseverance** and **wisdom** and our vision **“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** Jeremiah 29:11

## **Aims**

- ❖ to provide an opportunity for pupils to meet together as a whole school;
- ❖ to provide an opportunity to reflect on life and prayer;
- ❖ to introduce children to religious worship in a meaningful and honest way;
- ❖ to provide opportunities for pupils to encounter the rich spiritual traditions of the Anglican Church
- ❖ to guide pupils towards an understanding of their own inner spiritual lives
- ❖ to enable those pupils who want to worship God to do so;
- ❖ to encourage and develop a sense of community in the school, reinforcing the aims and ethos and celebrating the ideals and values of the school
- ❖ to aid pupils and staff in their own spiritual development by
  - creating time for peace, stillness and reflection during worship services, and
  - providing an opportunity for pupils to share their own thoughts and spiritual insights.

## **Organisation and Management**

The school holds regular assemblies where pupils meet together with a teacher, headteacher or the vicar of Bury’s St John the Evangelist Church. These assemblies have a variety of aims, content and experience.

Within these assemblies the act of collective worship takes place.

Collective worship is co-ordinated by the Headteacher who also leads two of the assemblies each week.

A programme of assembly themes is produced and distributed to all staff. This is part of the annual programme organised by the RE co-ordinator that includes special occasions held at various times.

All the worship in the school is of a broadly Christian character, while the content varies and will be more explicitly Christian on some days, less so on others.

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### Weekly Programme

Monday - Perseverance	Tuesday - Compassion	Wednesday - Wisdom	Thursday - Courage	Friday - Humility
Picture News Assembly and Worship with child’s prayer to conclude	Christian Value assembly with Class teacher or Child Led	Bible Story Vicar, RE Lead or SPLASH (x 5 per year)	Music Lead – Singing Assembly	Celebration of demonstrated Christian Values

Tuesday’s teacher-led assembly is by a different class teacher each half term. This both reduces teacher workload and provides the opportunity for all children to be familiar with all teaching staff – this in turn makes transition between classes easier for all children as they know all teaching staff.

The above can and will change as a reaction to world events.

### Annual Programme (whole school unless otherwise indicated)

- First 6 Weeks of the year focus on our Jeremiah Quote and a reminder of what our Christian values mean (led by the children)
- Harvest (moved to St John’s from 2023 due to the number of people attending exceeding our hall capacity)
- Remembrance (at St John’s memorial)
- Christingle (at St John’s)
- Nativity Performance (at school)
- Wassail with blessing from Vicar
- Easter Service led by Vicar or SPLASH
- Yr 6 Leaver’s Service (at Chichester Cathedral – Yr 6 only)
- Yr 6 Leaver’s Service (at school – whole school plus Yr 6 parents with blessing from vicar)

### Time Allocation

Collective Worship takes place at lunchtime each day as all children join in Grace. The assemblies, which contain an amount of collective worship each day, are planned for 15 minutes each day.

### Resources

A range of books and resources are available to support collective worship in the school, and are kept in the staff library, assembly hall and headteacher’s office. The Bible used for retelling Bible stories is located on the school alter.

The children in Buzzard Class embroidered the school alter cloths as part of their RE and art lessons. These cloths are changed in accordance with the liturgical year and in consultation with the vicar of Bury’s St John the Evangelist Church.

### Withdrawal

If parents wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons and assemblies they may contact the headteacher. Suitable alternative arrangements will be made.

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## **Community**

The school works closely with the local churches and schools. An example of this was during Covid where Bury CE Primary ‘live-streamed’ remembrance to all of the local parish schools as they were unable to attend in person.

Remembrance is a joint event between the Church and three local primary schools.

The vicar of St John’s supports the school, and on special occasions (at least once per term) the school worships in the local church. The vicar visits the school regularly to take worship and to join in with our community events, such as open days and special events.

NB Between April 2023 and January 2026, the school has worked with the Church Wardens to ensure continuity of local church links whilst in interregnum.

