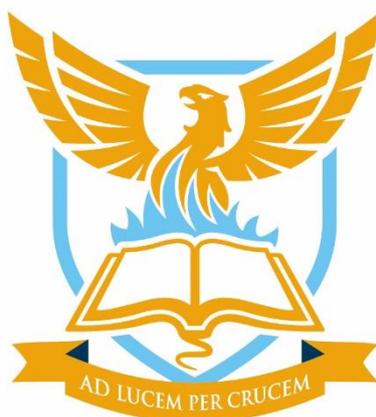


ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



Archbishop Blanch
SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

DATE WRITTEN:	January 2017
WRITTEN BY:	Subject Leader Social Studies
GOVERNOR COMMITTEE:	Pastoral
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**Community, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship, Thanksgiving,
Trust**

ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of Archbishop Blanch Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims.

As a Church of England School, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

At Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School we aim to follow these Christian values in our lives together:

Community, Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship, Thanksgiving and Trust.

This policy is implemented within the spirit of the school's Mission Statement:

"We are one community showing the love of Christ through Friendship, Compassion and Thanksgiving."

The ethos of Archbishop Blanch School, embracing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the traditions of the Anglican Church and this largely finds expression in the cycle of the Church's liturgical year.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of Archbishop Blanch, it is an integral part of the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for students to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.

At Archbishop Blanch we provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all students. Students are expected to attend all acts of Collective Worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds; the school expects that withdrawal will only take place following discussion between parents and the Headteacher.

We acknowledge and welcome a large number of students and staff from other Christian groups. The Anglican tradition has a firm commitment to ecumenism, and this finds expression at Archbishop Blanch School through members of other Christian traditions leading worship and bringing to it the richness of their experience.

We value the religious experiences that students and staff of other faiths bring to Archbishop Blanch community. The values and heritage of those faiths are celebrated in our worship at appropriate times. Archbishop Blanch School pledges itself to be a place where students and staff of all races and religions will find safety and respect for themselves, their families and their traditions.

Aims and Guiding Principles

- To ensure that our six Christian values of community, compassion, forgiveness, friendship, thanksgiving and trust play a pivotal role in our lives together.
- To provide Collective Worship of a high quality and to ensure that it has a central place in the life of the school.
- To provide an opportunity for students and adults to praise and reach out to God.
- To enable students to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to respect all individuals as children of God.
- To heighten feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness and mystery.
- To provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- To share the central teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian Church at an appropriate level.
- To explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school community, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace – a community where each individual really does matter.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity to approach God with a variety of forms of prayer; these might include praise, seeking forgiveness and asking on behalf of self and others.
- To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, talents and gifts of the school community, and to foster feelings of belonging through a sharing of experiences.
- To foster respect and care for God’s creation by a positive attitude to environmental issues.
- To provide enjoyable and memorable experiences of worship.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each pupil.
- To provide students with a strong foundation on which to build a vibrant and lifelong relationship with God.

At Archbishop Blanch School, we understand that our students’ approach to worship will be at differing levels of commitment. Therefore, we aim through Collective Worship and our Religious Studies curriculum to:

“Nurture those of the faith, support those of other faiths and challenge those of no faith.” [*Lord Robert Runcie*]

Our aim is to develop and share the school’s Christian ethos, recognising that this should not be taken for granted, but worked at through worship and daily life.

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Anglican foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship Policy is firmly based upon the intentions laid down in the Trust Deed. There is a link governor for Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the Collective Worship on a day to day basis. He/she should also act in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues in terms of providing materials for form prayers/reflections.

The School Chaplain: Our Chaplain, Reverend Mike Griffin, was appointed by the Bishop of Liverpool and is a member of the Anglican clergy

The School Development Plan [SIP] shall include in Section 1:1 one or more aims to improve the school’s worshipping life and/or community links with Liverpool’s faith communities.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Provision of Collective Worship for students in Years 7-13:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 2	Years 7 & 8 Leadership/ Staff/ Guest Speaker	Year 9 Leadership/ Staff/ Guest Speaker	Year 10 Leadership/ Staff/ Guest Speaker	Year 12 & 13 Leadership/ Staff/ Guest Speaker	Years 11 Leadership/ Staff/ Guest Speaker

On the days in the week when students do not meet as a school community or in year groups for Collective Worship, form prayers and/or a reflection take place and all students follow the Weekly Worship Theme.

A yearly calendar which outlines the Weekly Worship Themes is published to all staff along with full form time resources for form tutors to follow. The weekly theme is shared in the school bulletin and the school website.

The Church's liturgical cycle enables Archbishop Blanch community to reflect on and/or celebrate events in the life of Jesus Christ and on the role of the Church in the world. The festivals of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Harvest shall be celebrated either in school or at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

Whole school Eucharists, conducted according to the rites of Common Worship, shall take place on Ash Wednesday and to celebrate Easter. In addition, Eucharists shall be held at important transitional times – e.g. a Service of Blessing at the beginning of Year 7, a Record of Achievement Service at the end of Year 11 and a Year 13 Leavers' Eucharist. In addition, Year Group Eucharists are held every year for years 8, 9 and 10 and voluntary pre-school Eucharists, led by the Chaplain, shall be held once a month and during Advent and Lent.

In addition to these whole school Eucharists, the Christian life of the school is reflected in a major service held annually during the Autumn Term – An Evening to Celebrate Achievement, held in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

Visitors representing the worshipping communities of Liverpool frequently lead our worship; they add breadth and richness to our understanding of religious commitment and service. Guidelines are given to all those taking acts of worship for the first time at the school [see Appendix 1].

The school shall provide facilities for Muslim students to pray within school at the required time and would respect the needs of other faiths on request. During worship, mention is made of all major world religions and students from other faiths are encouraged to lead services.

The school's Worship Committee [which includes the Headteacher, Head of Religious Studies, Chaplain, governor, other staff and Sixth Form Worship Co-ordinators] shall meet at regular intervals during the year to plan festival celebrations, to evaluate and make plans to evaluate and improve the school community's experience of Collective Worship, and to monitor the progress of Section 1:1 of the School Improvement Plan, where appropriate.

The Worship Committee shall be given an annual budget to purchase resources, elements for Eucharists and photocopying.

Content of Collective Worship

A yearly calendar which outlines the Weekly Worship Themes is published to all staff along with full form time resources for form tutors to follow. The weekly theme is shared in the school bulletin and the school website.

All acts of worship are planned with consideration for the group of students taking part; attention is paid, therefore, to the use of language, concepts and stimuli appropriate to the age and varying abilities of the students present.

Opportunities taken to use resources and activities such as Bible passages, drama, music, quiet reflection and ICT technology.

The school's Collective Worship provides the opportunity for reflection and silence so that students and staff can make the worship their own if they so wish. A weekly form prayer book is added to by students within each form based upon the Theme of the Week.

Students are encouraged to be actively involved in the school's Collective Worship, which reflects the involvement many students have in the life and witness of their faith community. Their involvement may be at different levels according to the wishes of individuals – for example, taking acts of Collective Worship, reading Bible passages, leading intercessions, being members of the choirs or instrumental groups, singing hymns and taking Holy Communion or a blessing and joining in congregational responses.

It shall be the aim of those leading Collective Worship in the school that those taking part may have the opportunity to grow in their spirituality and feel reassured that their particular faith stance is respected, whilst allowing the opportunity for challenge.

Guidelines for Visitors Leading an Act of Worship at Archbishop Blanch School

Welcome to Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School and thank you for accepting our invitation to lead an act of Collective Worship at Archbishop Blanch. We hope that you will find the following information helpful as you prepare for your visit.

The majority of our students are from Christian families, whilst around 15% are of other world faiths, mostly Muslim. The recognition of other faiths is an important feature in our worship though, clearly, the main focus of our acts of worship shall be, and are expected to be, Christian.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of Archbishop Blanch. It is a special time in the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God in a variety of ways.

All acts of Collective Worship commence at 8.30 am. There is a weekly theme to our Worship programme, based on one of our six Christian values, and we would be grateful if you would use this theme as the basis for your talk. Charles O'Doherty, Head of Religious Studies, will inform you of the appropriate value when he contacts you.

We have CD, DVD, data projection and computer laptop technology available; please let us know in advance if you wish to use this equipment.

Our acts of worship include prayers and, therefore, we request that you end your talk/presentation with a prayer.

Please be aware of the ages of your "congregation" when preparing your worship and be sensitive to the wide range of experience, beliefs and opinions that our students hold.

We look forward very much to your visit and the contribution you will make to the worshipping life of Archbishop Blanch. We hope that this will be the beginning of a long friendship.