



# Bishop Justus School Policies

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Policy Title:	Worship
LT Responsibility:	Deputy Headteacher
Review Body:	Aquinas Advisory Council
Date:	October 2020
Review:	October 2021

## The School's Ethos

Bishop Justus Church of England School seeks to serve its community in the name of the Church by ensuring excellent education in a Christian setting.

This 21st century school is a stimulating learning environment that prepares students for living and working in a rapidly changing world and encourages them to value the rich diversity of cultures they will encounter. Students and staff are empowered to achieve their highest possible in academic, creative and sporting achievement both as members of a community and as individuals. The school provides students and staff with many opportunities to explore the significance of Christian faith and values to their own lives and the issues facing people locally, nationally and globally. The school is committed to ensuring that the learning, vocational, and personal needs of all its students are met by its curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students is set in the context of Christian faith as taught and lived in the Church of England.

The school's distinctive ethos and approach are offered to all members of the school community. Christian students find their faith affirmed and valued, and they meet and work with people who hold to other faiths and philosophies. All students encounter, in the lives of Christians in the school and in the school's ethos, a living Christian witness which is neither coercive nor assertive but which welcomes and affirms. All members of the school's community are equally valued and are encouraged to contribute their understandings and abilities to the school's work and ethos. The beliefs of those from other religious traditions are treated with respect and openness.

We recognise that God is at the heart of the school, and so collective worship has a high priority in the school's daily life. Collective worship is of high quality and planned to engage all members of the school's community. The school is a place in which students and staff are cared for and where they learn to care for one other.

Bishop Justus Church of England School seeks to achieve its aims and develop its life and ethos....  
**"Success through Faith, Love and Learning"**

### **Putting God At The Heart**

Whatsoever things are true,  
Whatsoever things are honest,  
Whatsoever things are just,  
Whatsoever things are lovely,  
Whatsoever things are of good report,  
If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,  
Think on these things.  
*(Philippians 4:8)*

## **CONTEXT**

School worship provides the primary focus for the school community's belief and value systems grounded in the Christian Gospel.

Worship will reflect the liturgical practices and beliefs of the Church of England. It will enhance the spiritual, moral, emotional, cultural, intellectual and social life of the school. School worship will identify, affirm and celebrate the central ideals of the Christian faith and will aim to evoke commitment to values such as honesty, courage, generosity, compassion, love, joy and peace within the context of Christian belief as taught and lived in the Church of England. Collective worship places Christ at the centre and gives students opportunities to learn about, understand and see the impact of the Trinity in a believer's life.

The worship programme offers opportunities for celebrating the major Christian festivals; looking at important dates in the church calendar including Saints Days; and learning about major bible stories and bible characters; as well as reflecting on current affairs, citizenship themes, awareness days and popular culture. The school's support of various charities will feature in the worship programme. All areas of the curriculum will connect with the worship programme.

All staff will support school worship and the participation of students in worship.

The individual threshold of participation in worship will be respected.

## **ARRANGEMENTS**

Morning worship will be daily for Years 7 to 13 and will be within the framework of a simple liturgy to be followed by all who are leading worship. A variety of traditional and modern prayers will be used including regular use of The Lord's Prayer and The Grace. Space for personal reflection and quiet contemplation should feature in morning worship.

The Eucharist is celebrated regularly: every year group will have three Eucharist's a year and there will also be three school House Eucharists a year. This means all students have the opportunity to participate in six Eucharists in an academic year. Local clergy will be invited to celebrate and support our Eucharistic worship. Anybody used to receiving Holy Communion in their own church can receive Communion here, others are welcome to receive a blessing if they so wish.

House Eucharists will take place at the end of each term.

When appropriate, collective worship may take place in the Chapel or Holy Trinity Parish Church.

The Chapel will remain open throughout the day for prayer and reflection for staff and students and can be used for tutor group workshops.

## **STYLE AND LEADERSHIP**

Creativity and variety of presentation and delivery is encouraged within the liturgical framework of worship to give students a range of worship experiences, with opportunities to experience awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, awareness, thanksgiving and praise.

Particular regard will be given to the physical arrangements so that the atmosphere will be conducive to worship, within the practical confines of the school buildings. A cross should be displayed in all classrooms and referred to in worship. Power Points will be provided for morning worship. Candles, banners, flowers, icons, liturgical colours and other symbols or artefacts should be used where appropriate.

Morning worship will be led by tutors in tutor rooms with occasional support by Learning Directors, Senior Leadership, the Chaplain, other staff, and other external worship visitors.

Every year group will meet collectively for worship once a week led by the Senior Leadership Team, Learning Directors and the Chaplain, other staff, and other external worship visitors.

Students will be actively involved in worship and will be encouraged to plan, lead and evaluate worship. This will foster the inclusion of all.

**MUSIC AND DRAMA**

Music and drama have a key place within worship and Eucharist to enhance the atmosphere and provide further opportunities for participation. Worship music will contain a variety of traditional hymns and contemporary songs. Live and recorded worship music should be part of worship. We strongly encourage students to participate in music, drama, readings and leading prayer, believing this adds a valuable dimension to collective worship.

**THE LOCAL CHURCH**

Worship information from local churches will be made available where appropriate.

**WITHDRAWAL**

We expect that everyone joining Bishop Justus Church of England School will wish to take part respectfully in daily collective worship and hope that no-one will wish to withdraw. Parents do have a legal right to withdraw their child from worship if they so wish. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right or who has any other concerns about worship, should refer them to the Headteacher.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is upheld.

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S. Thompson  
Deputy Head

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S. Murphy  
Headteacher

Bishop Justus Church of England School processes personal data in accordance with the data protection principles embodied in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The Academy complies with the requirements of the data protection legislation as detailed in the Trust Data Protection Policy. All staff are aware of the principles of data protection and will not process personal data unless necessary. The Academy safeguards the personal data it collects through the operation of the Trust’s data protection policy and processes and the IT policy. In addition, the Academy has taken steps to ensure that all its contracts that process data have the GDPR compliant provisions.