



**BROADWATER**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# Worship Policy 2022-2025

## **Turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding (Proverbs 2:2)**

Broadwater is a Christian School. We will enable children to become wise, confident, successful learners with the motivation, skills and responsibility to make a positive difference in God's world. Our vision is underpinned by the values we live by.

*The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22*

It is this fruit that, in partnership with parents, we will instil in the children of our school.

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## **School Aims**

- To provide a safe and caring Christian environment.
- To encourage children to do their best at all times.
- To encourage children to respect other people and be kind and considerate.
- To encourage children to take care of their surroundings.
- To provide a balanced curriculum and aim to meet the individual needs of each child.
- To inform parents about the curriculum each term.
- To discuss with parents their child's progress on a regular basis.
- To encourage the child to continue learning at home and provide relevant supporting activities.
- To foster good relationships between home and school and within the school community.

## **Context**

Broadwater is a large parish with a strong Evangelical tradition and commitment to relevant modern all age family worship. The Parish Church consists of four worship centres – the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Queen Street Church and St. Stephen's. The Worthing Chinese Christian Fellowship meets fortnightly at Queen Street Church. The school's admission policy gives first priority to looked after children/children in public care. Priority 2 give priority to children whose parent(s) show commitment to the life of the Parish of Broadwater by sustained regular worship at St. Mary's Church, Queen Street Church, St Stephen's or Worthing Chinese Christian Fellowship.

In this context and in accordance with the school's trust deed, there is a daily act of worship, which is consistent with the faith, and practice of the Church of England. The school has eight foundation Governors who have a responsibility for ensuring that worship is consistent with the purpose of the school and the ethos set by the school's trust deed.

Services for Christmas, Easter and on other occasions are often held in the Parish Church.

Broadwater School does not have a designated catchment area - all parents make the choice to send their children here. We hope that in doing so parents understand that it is the normal practice for children to attend an act of Christian worship as part of their daily routine. However, the school recognises that parents have the right to ask that a child is partly or wholly excused from attendance at religious worship and any parent wishing to exercise this right should contact the Headteacher so that arrangements can be made.

## **Aims of our School Worship:**

- To provide Christian worship which can be shared by adults and children and which provides for their involvement.
- To provide opportunities for spiritual development.
- To provide an atmosphere of trust which allows free response from all.
- To celebrate and develop the school's Vision and Values.

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## **Main Principles of Worship**

1. Worship should aim to be inclusive: *good worship engages everyone present in their own way.*
2. Worship should enhance the curriculum: *good worship shows appropriate links with the curriculum, Religious Education Policy (R.E) and class work.*
3. Worship should aim to be educational: *good worship develops children's ideas about God, others and themselves.*
4. Worship should aim to be stimulating and reflective: *good worship increases children's awareness of God through varied experiences.*
5. Worship should aim to be central to school life: *good worship gathers together and offers to God, the ethos, life and work of the school.*

## **Setting the Scene**

In creating an appropriate atmosphere for school worship, it is important that we aim to:

- Be warm, welcoming and inclusive
- Be peaceful and calm, yet vibrant and alive
- Enable expression and sharing of thoughts and feelings
- Allow for a secure and comfortable knowledge that each person will be valued and respected
- Promote opportunities for reflection and thankfulness

Staff are encouraged to share in times of worship both because of the positive message which this gives children and because it underlines the importance of worship in the life of the school. This also enables staff who are present to ensure that the content is sensitively followed up as appropriate.

Worship takes place in a variety of situations e.g. Whole school, Infant and Junior School, year group, class and in a variety of places – hall, studio, classroom, in the prayer space and outside in the Prayer Garden.

### **a. Focal Point**

A focal point emphasises the special nature of worship and should be positioned where all the children can see it.

A focal point may be – a cross, a bowl of flowers, a candle or other artefact. It may also be a picture or image projected on to the wall or screen.

### **b. Stillness and Quiet**

These are important parts of worship and may be encouraged in a number of ways:

- Children entering quietly whilst music is playing.
- Developing in children an awareness of the reflective nature of worship.

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- Use of a period of silence in worship, which enables those present to make their own connections with God.

Worship and assemblies have different purposes and need to be distinct from one another. A clear change in style should be adopted for various assembly items e.g. the giving out of notices or reminders of behaviour expectations.

### **The Anglican Tradition**

The faith and practice of the Church of England is a way of describing some of the essential features of the rich tradition of Anglican prayer and worship.

During a child's time at Broadwater the following areas will be promoted:

- Use of the Bible as a source of inspiration and worship. (All pupils are given a Bible by Broadwater PCC during Year 4, which is kept in school until the children leave when it becomes the child's). The version given to children is reviewed on an annual basis.
- Reflection on Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. cross, fish, Advent ring, Christingles, candles, Palm cross, crown of thorns, Easter garden, Trinity).
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year (colours) and the holy days of Advent, Christmas, Easter, Lent, Pentecost, (Harvest), Thanksgiving.
- Involving the church community.
- Church leaders leading worship.
- Use of the appropriate hymns and songs for worship.
- Learning of traditional prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages (e.g. The Lord's Prayer).
- Provision of opportunities to discover the value of meditation, reflection and silence within worship.
- Recognition of the school's strong commitment to ecumenism (e.g. in inviting members of other Christian denominations to lead worship).
- Teaching about the Eucharist in worship within the context of celebrating Easter.
- Welcoming all pupils of whatever faith and celebrating shared values and beliefs.

### **The Bible in School Worship**

Broadwater School recognises the central importance of the Bible to worship.

The school acknowledges that there are a variety of ways in which the Bible can be used in school worship but recognises that careful thought needs to be given to the worship intention.

### **Assembly Plans**

There is a three-year cycle of assemblies.

The assembly plan includes themes which complement the school's R.E. Scheme of Work and which contribute to social, moral, cultural and spiritual development, as well as recognising significant events in the Church's calendar.