



WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Primary Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy	Collective Worship Policy
Approved by	Local Governing Body
Date	March 2024
Review cycle	2 Years

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To champion and rejoice in those we serve, creating an environment where excellence is achieved and potential fulfilled

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2024	13.03	NS	New Policy

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Introduction

This document is a statement of the school's intentions with regard to the Act of Collective Worship. Our acts of collective worship are an important part of school life and reflect the ethos and aims of the school. Our acts of collective worship will be based on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church attitudes. Collective Worship will encompass the teachings in all faiths and will be a tool to explore British Values and respect and tolerance for all faith communities. Collective Worship will encompass the Christian Values, exploring them on a termly basis.

Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring and supportive atmosphere.

Objectives

- To provide an opportunity for the whole school community to worship;

- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- Create a sense of school identity and of belonging to a school community which shares common experiences;
- Celebrate values we hold as important;
- Encompass all aspects of school life, all curriculum areas and reflect the school's ethos;
- Show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global and to develop in them a sense of community spirit;
- Give children an understanding of all faith communities and tolerance and respect for all;
- Encourage a care and concern and respect for others in society and the natural world, we are the custodians of God's world;
- Help children to think about a wide range of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous, contributing to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- To encourage a sense of awe and wonder;
- To maintain and strengthen our links with our local community church;

Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship, which will include prayer, may take many forms. There may be music, song and dance, drama, prayers, readings, teachings, listening, reflective silence, use of artefacts and symbols, the lighting of candles. They will be conducted in a dignified way where children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Children are made aware that this is a special time and that they should be quiet and thoughtful. Sometimes music, artefacts and candles will be used as a focal point for the children. Children will be actively involved as much as possible.

It is important to recognise the achievements and learning of our children both in and out of school. This is celebrated with certificates, verbal acknowledgement or other similar awards for specific events and activities; children are also invited to share their outside successes. Parents and carers are encouraged to attend our weekly Shining Lights collective worship when we celebrate the work and achievements of the children in line with that term's value; this promotes the partnership between home and school and promotes the community spirit of the school. Parents are also encouraged to attend our end of term Values collective worship where teachers share their nominations for pupils who have displayed all of our school values throughout that term.

Through our acts of collective worship we hope that children and adults take something away to think about into their daily life within school and the community. The organisation of collective worship may vary from time to time. Our act of collective worship will usually be held after the registration period in the morning at 9.05am.

The current pattern for collective worship is:

Monday: Whole school Biblical focus: Led by Andrew Morton from Earlesfield Community Church

Tuesday: Whole school: God's Big Story – Understanding Christianity – Led by Susie McGibbon

Wednesday: Whole School: PHSE focus: Led by Natalie Smyth/Emma Drury

Thursday: Whole school: Biblical focus: Michael Buckridge from Bethesda Assembly, Grantham, teacher-led or class-led collective worship

Friday: Shining Lights Collective Worship: whole school celebration of good work, behaviour and following our school values

This collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Parents and carers are invited to this collective worship.

Themes for collective worship are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, festivals and events of the Christian calendar; these are planned on a termly basis. Our themes will reflect our termly Christian values. There will be stories from other faiths and secular stories. We celebrate the diversity of other religions and cultures. We see it as our role to promote respect for, and understanding of, different beliefs and religious practices, based on the study of many faiths. There will also be opportunities to respond, in an appropriate and sensitive way to incidents and events, both local and national, as they arise.

Singing and music are important elements within our collective worship. Collective worship usually takes place in our school hall and we welcome visitors from other local churches.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children and staff to attend our acts of collective worship; however the rights of parents to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship is an integral part of the Education Act (1988). Any parent who wishes to exercise this right may do so in consultation with the Head Teacher and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the time concerned. The Chair of Governors will also be made aware of any requests of withdrawal from collective worship.

Roles and responsibilities

The Role of the Character of Education Lead

One function of the Character of Education Lead is to support and deliver collective worship through the provision and creation of appropriate worship resources.

1. Planning a termly programme of themes for collective worship.
2. Ensuring there are resources available for the above
3. Keeping up to date with relevant courses, arranging, where appropriate, training and ensuring effective communication with staff, clergy, parents and anyone else concerned.
4. Form good working relationships with nearby priests, parishes, church groups and facilitate partnership working between these and the school.

The Role of the Local Governing Body

The LGB is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed or in accordance with the diocesan guidelines
- Ensuring that British Values are promoted in Collective Worship
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored

Monitoring and evaluating

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the Headteacher and the Governors who should monitor and evaluate the success of acts of collective worship through:

- Regular discussions with staff and pupils as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship;
- Headteacher observation of and participation in acts of worship to assess children's involvement and response and appropriateness of content and presentation;
- Regular review of school practice
- Identification of any relevant staff training needs
- Regular monitoring and development of resources
- Checking that appropriate opportunities to raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues are created and taken
- Ensuring that the legal requirements for collective worship are being met: A record of collective worship is kept by the Character of Education Lead and Headteacher. The Governing Body will review this policy formally every two years. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and will take place as and when required.