



**GREAT FINBOROUGH
CHURCH PRIMARY**

Collective Worship Policy

Prepared by:	S Howson
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Chair of Governors:	Jamie Warner
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Great Finborough Church Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Great Finborough Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

This Policy Statement should be read in conjunction with the School Policy for Religious Education.

Statement of the Law

- The Policy is written in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Act makes particular reference to Voluntary Controlled and states that:
- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
- This may be as a whole school or in different age groups.
- This act of worship may happen at any time during the school day.
- The act of worship has to take place on the school premises. The school can hold acts of collective worship off the school premises but these are in addition to the statutory acts of worship at school.
- It is the responsibility of the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher to ensure that an act of collective worship happens each day.
- The character and content of worship continues to be determined by the Governing Body in accordance with the Trust Deed.
- Teachers at this school, other than reserved teachers, do have the right to withdraw from the collective act of worship.
- All parents have a right to withdraw their children from school worship.

Aims for Worship

Our schools collective acts of worship aim:

- To give an opportunity, for those who wish, to worship God.
- To offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships.
- To provide regular time and opportunity for reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern to the broader and more lasting concerns of life.

- To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears.
- To help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.
- To develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs.
- To provide time to share with others the things we have been doing, our thoughts and ideas.
- To help our children develop shared values – honesty, respect, tolerance, self-discipline, forgiveness and fairness.
- To give children experience of being active members of a caring community.
- To respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation and greed.

Collective Worship

Parents are aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. The governing body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is also made clear to staff on their appointment.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Planning

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. The Collective Worship coordinator is responsible for planning.

Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Values for Life. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. It is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

The school is supported by the Diocesan Director of Education.

Organisation of Collective Worship

- There is an act of collective worship for the whole school each day.
- There will be opportunities for acts of worship in St Andrew's Parish Church at different times during the year.
- Acts of worship are based around half-termly Value Themes.
- Major festivals of the church year are celebrated.
- All parents are advised of their right to withdraw from the collective act of worship in the School Prospectus.

Creating an appropriate setting for Worship

- Worship normally takes place in the School Hall. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.
- Children are encouraged to come into assembly and to leave assembly in a calm peaceful way.
- A simple worship table allows the children to have a visual focus for the worship with a candle which is lit at the start of the worship by the children to signify that this is the start of a special time. A simple, wooden cross is displayed at the front of the school hall.
- In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship the children are asked to sit quietly and still whilst the school assembles and music is played.
- There are occasions when there may be a visual stimulus or a display to act as a focal point.
- The assemblies are conducted by all staff members.

The Character of Worship

The acts of collective worship in the school are planned so as to give the children a variety of experience, and to enable them to come to the threshold of worship. These experiences will include:

- The telling of appropriate stories – both from the Bible and other sources.
- Discussions.
- Drama.
- Dance.
- Poetry.
- Mime.
- Music – both to listen to and to participate in.
- Visiting speakers.
- Video.

A Worshipful Response

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these experiences through:

- The singing of songs.
- Spoken prayer.
- Silent reflection.
- Offering their own responses.

The use of prayer may be that of prayers the children have written, traditional prayers or short prayers led by a teacher or visitor. In addition to silent reflection, we have identified six characteristics of worshipful response:

- Saying thank you.
- Saying sorry.
- Sharing our needs.
- Celebrating.
- Thinking of others.
- Remembering.

These characteristics are reflected in the choice of songs and prayers. Children are invited to make the prayers their own by saying ‘Amen’.

The use of Visitors in the Collective Act of Worship

- Visiting speakers are invited into school to share in the collective act of worship.
- In general the school invites people who are known within, and who represent, the local Christian community.
- Visitors are people who have some experience of talking to young children.
- Visitors are given good notice of, and asked to incorporate the relevant theme, at a given time.
- The Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship will be kept aware of the visitors who assist with the collective act of worship.

Resources

The school has a number of resources to assist in the planning of worship. The majority of the resources for worship are located on the teacher’s shelves in the library. The Collective Worship Leader monitors the quality of resources and a small budget is available annually for the purchase of new materials.

- Assembly books – including stories, poems, etc.
- The school uses the ‘Values for Life’ programme.
- The Lion Bible Story books for use by children and staff are located in the library.
- Music books – including Come & Praise, Junior Praise, Wake up World, etc.

Right of withdrawal

At Great Finborough Church Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community. However we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship at the school.

Monitoring and evaluation

Following the planning of collective worship, the evaluation and recording is an integral part of the process. Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or a member of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship will be carried out on a regular basis. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is recommended that the Collective worship section of The National Societies Self Evaluation toolkit be used as a basis for this process.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Reviewed and amended January 2017.

Next review January 2019.