



**GREAT FINBOROUGH
CHURCH PRIMARY**

Collective Worship Policy

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Chair of Governors:	Jamie Warner
Chair of Committee:	Rev Chris Childs
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Great Finborough Church Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

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.

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School, Collective Worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos. Worship is an integral part of the school day as it allows us to gather as an inclusive community to pray, sing, worship and reflect in order to strengthen our understanding of God and ourselves. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we 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.

This Policy Statement should be read in conjunction with the School Policy for Religious Education, Spirituality Policy, Mental Health and Well-Being Policy.

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:

1. All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
2. All acts of Collective Worship must be Christian in character. Pupils may be grouped in various ways for worship, such as the whole school or in different age groups.
3. Worship may happen at any time during the school day. The act of worship will usually take place on the school premises. The school can hold acts of collective worship off the school premises (eg. The local Parish Church) on special occasions.
4. 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 of the school, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
5. Teachers at this school, other than reserved teachers, do have the right to withdraw from the collective act of worship.
6. All parents have a right to withdraw their children from school worship.

Aims for Worship

Within our provision of Collective Worship, we try to meet these aims for all children:

- To provide 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 Christian values.
- 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.

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 from Collective Worship. It is hoped, however, that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher. We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to legal requirements and the management 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.

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.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each half-term explores a Christian value in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection. 'Values for Life' or 'Roots and Fruits' are most commonly used as the basis of these plans. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. It is also recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Our preferred approach for individual acts of worship is to follow the pattern of GATHER, ENGAGE, RESPOND, SEND – this approach offers a pattern which both staff and children can use and is useful for evaluation as well.

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 Christian Values.
- 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 worship 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. 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.

A worship table (displaying cross, candle and bible) 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 wooden cross is displayed at the front of the school hall on the Collective Worship display. There are occasions when there will be a visual stimulus or a display to act as a focal point.

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 Collective Worship

We work to promote links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of collective 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 and 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 with the Collective Worship Leader. The Collective Worship Leader monitors the quality of resources and a small budget is available annually for the purchase of new materials, such as:

- Assembly books – including stories, poems, etc
- The school uses the 'Values for Life' and the 'Roots and Fruits' programme
- The Lion Bible Story books for use by children and staff are located in the library
- Music books and CDs

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. SIAMS inspectors ask 'What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?' The questionnaires provided for staff and pupils are useful indicators and should be used annually to help monitor this impact.

Staff should have opportunity to discuss the requirements of the SIAMS inspection and use its criteria as one way of moving Collective Worship forward in their individual school.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Reviewed and amended March 2020.

Next review March 2022