



**GREAT FINBOROUGH
CHURCH PRIMARY**

Collective Worship Policy

'Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Matthew 13 Verse 8

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Chair of Governors:	Liam Page
Chair of Committee:	Rev Sarah Jenkins
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Great Finborough Church Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision

Rooted in Faith; Enriching Young Minds

'Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

(Matthew 13 Verse 8)

Our parents and carers entrust us with the most precious of gifts in their lives- their children. It is our responsibility to take this most precious of seed and provide them with the best opportunity to grow as individuals and to learn how to contribute to the wider communities they belong to.

We believe that a broad and balanced curriculum, and the daily life and work of our school, provides the deep and fertile soil. This is needed by our pupils, the seeds, to enable them to put down roots for stability, warmth for support and nutrients (knowledge and skills) to flourish.

As the early shoots of growth begin to appear, the individuals in our care not only need a fertile soil but also need the right additional conditions to truly reach their full potential and to prepare them to fulfil their life in the wider world to which they belong. This enrichment is provided through a curriculum where first-hand and real life experiences and opportunities are at its heart. This enrichment enables our children to learn, develop, retain and apply their newly learned knowledge and skills from, and to, the world around them.

By the end of their journey with us, if we have been successful, our seeds will have grown in to strong, flourishing and caring individuals ready for their next stage of learning and will increasingly use their strength, knowledge, skills and love to support and benefit others to flourish- If achieved, this will in time produces a crop greater than that which was originally sown.

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 Collective Worship 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 Collective Worship opportunities 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, classes 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 or other churches in the school's catchment area) 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 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 Headteacher. 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 Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of Collective Worship at the school.

Planning & Timetabling

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 the planning.

The Collective Worship leader is responsible for planning. The Headteacher, Foundation Governors' and the Governors' Ethos Working Party are responsible for monitoring the planning process.

The planning of collective worship is based on the Values for Life material recommended by the diocese. In addition to collective worship led by staff and children, planning also involves working alongside the local clergy and members of the Church community and the Open the Book team. The Governors' Ethos Working Party (Staff, Governors, Church representatives and a member of the diocesan team) meet termly to support the planning of key services and events in the Christian calendar.

Daily collective worship is usually timetabled for 10:30am and during the course of the week involves:

- Staff and Clergy led Collective Worship (Values for Life based)
- Open the Book (Fortnightly)
- Class Based Collective Worship- Based on the Lion Story Teller Bible.
- Worship through Songs/ Hymns & Quotes/ Reflections based on the value in focus.
- Celebrating Achievements (The Crop Flourishing).

Creating an Appropriate Setting for Worship

Worship normally takes place in the School Hall. We conduct Collective Worship 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 Collective Worship, and to leave, Collective Worship 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) is set up by the Oak Class (Year 6) Collective Worship monitors which allows the children to have a visual focus for the worship. A candle 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 draped in the appropriate liturgical colour for the Christian calendar. There are occasions when there will be a visual stimulus or a display to act as a focal point.

Features of Collective Worship

The structure of Collective Worship is based on the principle of gather, engage, respond and send.

Collective worship is opened by the Year 6 Collective Worship monitors using one of a selection of Christian greeting. They then light the candle to let in the light of Christ.

The acts of collective worship include a variety of experiences, and to enable them to come to the threshold of worship. These experiences will include:

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

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 children also regularly pray using the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer.

The Year 6 monitors close the Collective Worship using a selection of Christian dismissal.

Throughout the year, the children are involved regularly in the delivery of collective worship through opportunities such as acting during Open the Book sessions and taking the lead in our Church services which are planned on the basis of the children leading the majority of the services.

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

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to young children. Visitors are given good notice of, and asked to incorporate the relevant value, 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 collective 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 finances are available annually for the purchase of new materials and to resource key services, such as:

- Assembly books – including stories, poems, etc
- Resources to support the 'Values for Life' programme
- The Lion Bible Story books for use by children and staff
- Music books and CDs
- Resources for activities as part of collective worship and Church services

Funding is also made available for travel to services held at local Churches within our catchment area.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

It is the role of Collective Worship Leader and the Curriculum Leader to monitor and evaluate Religious Education in the school, through lesson participation, book looks and pupil voice interviews.

The Collective Worship Leader and Curriculum Leader meet regularly with the Governors' Ethos Working Party.

Our close links to the diocesan team also enables support in the monitoring, evaluation and review of Collective Worship from the Diocesan School Effectiveness Officer and School's RE Adviser.

Reviewing this Policy:

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Reviewed and Amended March 2020, March 2022 and November 2024.
Next Review: November 2026.