1. **Introduction**
   1. Definition

A daily Collective Act of Worship/Assembly helps to establish the positive ethos of the school. We value the time where the school is gathered together and the children are encouraged to play an active part in this gathering.

* 1. Aims
* To give an opportunity for those who wish, to worship God
* To provide a time of quiet reflection and prayer.
* To offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships
* To help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them
* To provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears etc.
* To develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others and personal needs
* To provide time to share the things we have been doing, our thoughts and ideas
* To help children develop shared spiritual and moral 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, greed etc.
* To provide a relaxed yet ordered time where the ‘family of the school’ is celebrated.
* To provide opportunities to develop a sense of community of celebrating and affirming the values of the school. We celebrate children’s achievements in all areas to enhance this.
* To be able to see the effectiveness of the Collective Acts of Worship / assemblies in the behaviour of the children and staff.
  1. Communication

This policy has been created through consultation with staff and advice from the Diocese before being taken to the Full Governing Body for ratification.

1. **Leadership and management**
   1. Roles and responsibilities

Headteacher, Leadership and Staff

* Through Collective Worship promote the Christian ethos and culture of the school
* To fully explore themes and values through a robust Collective Worship rota
* To provide adequate training where necessary
* To provide resources

Staff

* To assist in the planning of the themes and values of the Collective Worship
* To deliver Collective Worship on a regular basis

Governing Body

* To be aware of the overview for Collective Worship
* To monitor Collective Worship
  1. Reviewing and monitoring

This policy will be renewed biannually and the effectiveness of Collective Worship will be monitored in collaboration with the link governor for RE and Collective Worship.

1. **Teaching, learning and assessment**
   1. Procedures

Worship is a freely given act and by inviting children to have their own thoughts and allow others to quietly think and reflect, we are hopeful that each child (at their own level) can empathise and respond while a prayer, traditional or of a Christian character is said. We are promoting self-knowledge and encouraging pupils to employ reflective techniques which engage their emotions and feelings.

* 1. Structure and timing

The daily Assembly / Collective Act of Worship:

♦ Start promptly at 9.05 a.m., usually lasting 15 minutes and no longer than 20 minutes.

* On Monday the weekly personal quality linked to the half termly value is introduced
* On Tuesdays Collective Worship will be linked to the value.
* On Wednesday we learn new songs and understand their meaning
* On Thursdays links to the Lectionary on the Diocese of Ely website or SEAL resources
* On Friday we will celebrate achievement by issuing certificates to pupils, including those who have been successful in demonstrating the personal quality of the week

♦ Pupils lead at least one assembly each half term – which they plan and prepare using ‘out of the Box’ and ‘Flippin Praise’.

♦ A piece of music is played in entry to and when leaving the hall. These will include a range of styles, instruments, composers and music from different cultures (which may be related to the theme or events of the week).

♦ The Collective Worship starts with a response

♦ A hymn or song of the week is sung in each assembly.

♦ A relevant prayer, traditional or extempore, is led by either the teacher or the children Children’s own prayers are also used. Time is given for children’s self- reflection. Pupils prepare for this with the instructions: ‘Hands together, eyes closed’. This is a time when we can be quiet with our own thoughts and we allow other children to have their own thoughts without being disturbed.

♦ A candle is lit whilst this reflection is happening

* 1. Collective Worship and its relationship to Religious Education

In law, collective worship and religious education are distinct. During collective worship at Great Wilbraham, stories from the Bible, Christian and other traditions are told and enjoyed, festival days and celebrations are often mentioned, and we enjoy assemblies led by members of religious communities. Religious education, however, is part of the school curriculum; it has to be delivered appropriately for pupils of different ages and abilities and cannot be delivered during collective worship. These two complement and bring depth to each other. A separate policy is available for religious education.

* 1. Prayers and time for reflection

Prayers are said in class by all those present before lunch and before going home at the end of the day.

* 1. Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship at Great Wilbraham will be drawn from half-termly themes from ‘Values for Life’ and the SEAL PSHE units of work. ‘Values for Life’ is produced by Gloucester Diocese and provides themes for a three year period enabling schools focus clearly on things which should be at the heart of the community when they gather together for Collective Worship. Having a good length of time to cover these values allows us to learn about other festivals and have visitors to occasionally break away from the theme without detracting from its impact as a whole.

* 1. Resources

The ‘Values for Life’ folder and ‘Flippin Praise’ book can be found in the staffroom along with supporting materials (books containing stories, prayers and information about people and events). A range of artefacts for Christian and other faiths are available.

* 1. Story telling

Because of the wide age range, the nature of the assembly should be relaxed with the children contributing to it. Questions and answers should be positively encouraged. It is easier to keep the children’s attention by ‘telling’ rather than ‘reading’ a story so ‘telling’ stories is positively encouraged.

* 1. Special Assemblies / Acts of Worship

Each class has the opportunity to have a sharing assembly where the pupils lead the service and the purpose is to celebrate the children’s achievements and learning that term. All pupils participate and parents and friends are all invited to attend.

In addition, special services are held throughout the year at one of the Churches in the villages – for example Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Easter and leaver’s services. Parents, relatives, local residents and parishioners are invited to attend.

* 1. Attendance

Arrangements for the act of collective worship are made by the school in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. In this Voluntary Controlled school collective worship is delivered in accordance with this policy and follows a scheme recommended by Diocese support staff. We encourage a caring attitude towards each other and different cultures and beliefs and we are proud of our children’s ‘outstanding’ caring, sensitive attitudes.

Parents may, if they wish, withdraw their children from the arrangements for worship. Reasons for withdrawal do not have to be given and the school must enable parents to exercise this legal entitlement. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship and are not required to give reasons for withdrawal. Their classes, however, are legally entitled to collective worship.

1. **Personal development, behaviour and welfare**
   1. Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC)

Themes linking to SMSC are prevalent throughout the delivery of Collective Worship and the use of the SEAL resources enhances the children’s experiences.

* 1. Safeguarding

Key important themes will be explored to promote pupil safety through Collective Worship

* 1. Health and safety

Great Wilbraham CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. During Collective Worship children will be kept safe and learn about keeping safe.

* 1. Community Links

Relations, friends and villagers are invited into the school to join in festivities (eg Harvest, Christmas, End of Year Celebrations) and to attend services held in the church with the children, and share in the community of the school.

1. **Outcomes for pupils**
   1. Inclusion and equal opportunities

Our whole school philosophy totally encompasses the equality of access and opportunity. These themes are often covered through Values for Life and other themes that come up throughout the year.

1. **Links to other policies**
   1. RE policy
2. **Appendices**

7.1 Collective worship termly overviews