



Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School

Policy title: Collective Worship

Date created: January 2020

Date ratified:

Next Review Date: January 2023

Signed:

1. Introduction

1.1. 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. 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.

1.2. 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 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.

2. Quality of Education

2.1. Intent of the Curriculum

2.1.1. Curriculum design and coverage

At GWPS our curriculum is at its most effective when:

- It is CREATIVELY taught and practical; children are engaged and have a love of learning
- When children are CONFIDENT to think critically, ask questions, be resilient and learn from each other;
- We are CARING about the diverse world around us and TOGETHER we go on a journey of self-discovery.

2.1.2. Knowledge and skills – Collective Worship and 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.

2.1.3. Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship at Great Wilbraham will be drawn from half-termly themes from 'Values for Life'. This is a document produced by Gloucester Diocese and provides 18 themes over a three year period enabling schools to focus on Values 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 without detracting from its impact as a whole.





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Collective Worship is planned termly and each half term has a separate Value. Every week then has a special 'Personal Quality' which relates to the overarching Christian Value of the half term. The assembly content then links to that weekly quality.

2.1.4. SEND

Collective Worship is designed for all children to be able to participate within and children of all abilities are encouraged to contribute.

2.1.5. Cultural capital and diversity

Great Wilbraham CE Primary is a Church of England School and we believe it is important to learn about different cultures and beliefs. Throughout the year there will be opportunities to learn and appreciate festivals of different religions.

2.2. Implementation of Teaching and Learning

2.2.1. Subject knowledge

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.

2.2.2. Timings

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

2.2.3. Leadership support

The Headteacher plans the termly overview for the Collective Worship and provides resources (below) for teachers to deliver Collective Worship. The Headteacher also liaises with the Church to allow opportunities for the pupils to have Collective Worship in both Little Wilbraham and Great Wilbraham churches and also to have members of the Church participate in school Collective Worship

2.2.4. 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). Online resources such as the Ely Lectionary for schools are also widely used. A range of artefacts for Christian and other faiths are available.





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2.2.5. Learning environment

There is a clear area of worship in the hall which has the King James bible and a candle. The colours of the table reflect the stage of the Lectionary – these also link to the Thursday Lectionary assembly themes.

2.3. Impact

2.3.1. Summative assessment

Collective Worship is monitored by the Foundation governor responsible and feedback is given to the Full Governing Body.

2.3.2. Preparation for next stage of education

Through a clearly organised and thoughtful overview we aim to prepare our pupils for the wider world by becoming global citizens who are able to apply their understanding of the Christian Values we promote.

2.3.3. High quality pupil work

High expectations are shown in Collective Worship in behaviour and participation. Pupils will be involved in the Collective Worship.

2.3.4. Applying learning

The weekly Personal Quality is expected to be applied throughout the week and children that do so are rewarded in a Friday assembly when certificates related to that quality are presented.

3. Behaviour and Attitudes

3.1. Attitudes to learning

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.

3.2. Positive and respectful culture

A positive and respectful culture is the key nature of what we aim to achieve within a clear and organised themed overview of Collective Worship. Our children show high expectations of behaviour and we are proud of their commitment to the Christian Values.

3.3. Supporting colleagues

All teaching staff are expected to deliver Collective Worship and are provided with adequate resources.

4. Personal development

4.1. Extended curriculum and wider outcomes – Special Assemblies and 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.

4.2. Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural

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





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4.3. Christian ethos and British values

As a Church of England school we follow the Values for life programme and embed these beliefs into our classrooms. British values are celebrated throughout the school.

5. Leadership and management

5.1. Roles and responsibilities

Leadership

- 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

5.2. Reviewing and monitoring

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

5.3. Continuing professional development

Staff needs in CPD in relation to Collective Worship may come through performance management, recognition of a whole school need or through the needs of individual pupils.

5.4. 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.

5.5. Working with governors

A Foundation Governor will be responsible for liaising, observing and reporting back upon Collective Worship with the Headteacher and the Full Governing Body

5.6. 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.

5.7. Safeguarding

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

5.8. 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.

5.9. Reviewing and monitoring

This policy will be renewed every three years.

6. Links to other policies

6.1. RE policy

7. Appendices

7.1 Collective worship termly overviews

