



Great Wilbraham C of E Primary Academy

Policy title: Collective Worship

Date created: September 2024

Date ratified:

Next Review Date: September 2027

Signed:

1. Introduction

1.1. Definition

A daily Collective Act of Worship helps to establish the positive Christian ethos of our school. We value the time where the school is gathered together and the children are encouraged to play an active part in this gathering. Acts of Worship are invitational, reflective and engaging. We have flexibility in our collective worship to enable all pupils to benefit without compromising their beliefs. We acknowledge the legal requirement to provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children wholly or partly from collective worship and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Collective worship gives all pupils and staff opportunities to:

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.
- 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 by reflecting on the character of God and the teachings of Christ.
- To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.
- 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 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 GWPA our curriculum is at its most effective when it is strongly linked with our four core Christian values:

LOVE: Developing an awareness of self-love and personal relationships and giving an opportunity for those who wish to worship God. Sharing each other's joys and challenges.

THANKFULNESS: Opportunities for praise and thanksgiving to God. Learning to appreciate that understanding individuals' views, cultures and life experience can positively enhance our own lives and the communities around us.

COURAGE: Encouraging children to feel confident and 'safe' to explore, ask and answer the "Big Questions". Developing courageous advocacy and having the strength to act on concern for others.

WONDER: Offering children a spiritual dimension to their lives and a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.

'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26)





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2.1.2. Knowledge and skills – Collective Worship and Religious Education

Collective Worship is totally separate from the requirements of Religious and World Views Education. During collective worship at Great Wilbraham, stories from the Bible, are told and enjoyed; festival days and celebrations are often mentioned and we welcome members of our religious communities in to lead some sessions. Religious and World Views 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 Religious and World Views Education policy is available.

Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship at Great Wilbraham will focus predominately on our four core Christian values: Love, Thankfulness, Courage and Wonder. We will also explore other Christian values and will draw from the Ely Diocese Collective Worship Theme Plan exemplar. Collective Worship is planned termly and will look at our core values on alternate half terms to ensure our children have a good understanding of them and they are revisited regularly. Each week will have a special personal quality which relates to the overarching Christian value of that week and will complement our Positive Relationships Policy and Curriculum.

2.1.3. SEND

Collective Worship is designed for all children to be able to enjoy, engage and participate with and children of all abilities are encouraged to contribute.

2.1.4. Cultural capital and diversity

Great Wilbraham CE Primary Academy 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

2.2.1. Subject knowledge

Prior to delivering Collective Worship, staff will ensure that they are confident by familiarising themselves with the stories from the Bible, festival days and celebrations that are the focus of their Collective Worship.

2.2.2. Timings

Collective Act of Worship:

♦ Start promptly at 2:45 p.m. lasting 25 minutes.

- On Mondays we have Choral Worship where we learn new songs and understand their meaning.
- On Tuesdays Collective Worship will be linked to the value and an Old Testament bible story.
- On Wednesdays Collective Worship will be linked to the value and compliment our Positive Relationships Policy and Curriculum.
- On Thursdays Collective Worship will link to the value and a New Testament bible story.
- 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.

♦ A piece of music is played on entry to the hall, these will include a range of styles, instruments, composers and music from different cultures. Music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. When leaving the hall, we will encourage performances from pupils who are learning to play an instrument.

♦ The Collective Worship starts with a response. Each Collective Worship leader will choose their own response. Flippin' Praise will be used to support this.





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- ♦ A hymn or song of the week is sung in each Collective Worship. We take time to consider the wording and meanings of the songs.
- ♦ Year six children write and read their own prayers linked to our core values. Time is given for children's self-reflection. Pupils prepare for this with the instructions: 'Please find your peaceful place and be still'. 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 to signify a time of quiet reflection.

2.2.3 Leadership support

The Headteacher plans the termly overview for the Collective Worship for teachers. 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

'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.

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.

2.3 Impact

2.3.1 Summative assessment

Collective Worship is monitored by the Foundation governor responsible alongside the subject lead and feedback is given to the 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 Applying learning

The weekly Personal Quality is expected to be applied throughout the week and staff should recognise and praise pupils who demonstrate it.

3 **Behaviour and Attitudes**

3.1 Attitudes to learning

Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and comment openly yet sensitively. We encourage a caring attitude towards each other and different cultures and beliefs.

3.2 Positive and respectful culture

A positive and respectful culture is key and we aim to achieve this within a clear and organised Collective Worship overview.

3.3 Supporting colleagues

All teaching staff have an opportunity to deliver Collective Worship and are provided with adequate resources.

4 **Personal development**

4.1 Extended curriculum and wider outcomes – Acts of Worship





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Each class has the opportunity to lead a collective act of worship. This is an opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements and learning that term. All pupils participate and parents and friends are all invited to attend. In addition, Collective Worship is 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. Throughout the year, our local parish Rector is invited to lead Collective Worship in school.

4.2 Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural

Themes linking to SMSC are prevalent throughout the delivery of Collective Worship.

As a Church of England school, we follow our four core values and embed these beliefs into our classrooms. British values are celebrated throughout the school and we agree with the Department for Education's five part definition of British Values: • Democracy • The rule of law • Individual liberty • Mutual respect • Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

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.
- To monitor impact.

Staff

- To assist in the planning of the themes and values of Collective Worship.
- To have the opportunity 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 foundation committee and the LGB.

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 Community links

Relations, friends and villagers are invited into the school to join in festivities (e.g. 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.

5.2.3 Working with governors

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

5.2.4 Inclusion and equal opportunities

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

5.2.5 Right to Withdraw





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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.

5.2.6 Safeguarding

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

5.2.7 Health and safety

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

5.2.8 Reviewing and monitoring

This policy will be renewed every three years.

6 Links to other policies

RWVE policy

7 Appendices

Collective Worship termly overviews

