



Collective Worship Policy

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad" Psalm 126:3

Great Barton C of E Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Review Frequency – annually



Reviewed By – JG and CR

Signature

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Comments- *The document to support planning has changed the updated document has been added.*

Reviewed By –

Signature

Date –

Comments

Reviewed By –

Signature

Date –

Comments

This policy covers:

- 1.1 Our vision for Collective Worship
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1.1 Our vision for Collective Worship

As a Church of England academy, we hold to a vision that worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where staff and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is not simply a statutory duty.

Collective Worship enables pupils and staff to gather together to respond to the presence, power and peace of God through prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings.

Worship should enable participants to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. We welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect.

1.2 Legal Requirements

All Church of England schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the schools' Trust deeds and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, tutor groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the schools' Trust deeds.
- The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

1.3 Anglican Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our schools. We use the following indicators:

BIBLICAL- the Bible is used as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, psalms and other verses of scripture.

LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well-known prayers – many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.

EUCCHARISTIC – we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship, either in RE or through our own school celebration with the local priest

SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals

SYMBOLIC – we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection

ECUMENICAL – we work with other local Christian denominations

DIVERSE – we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g. through work with other diocese schools, through valuing both meditation and silence, quiet songs and louder expressions of praise, etc

We seek to provide a worship space which is attractive and well prepared with thought given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We have fostered links with the local parish Church (Holy Innocents Church as well as the Freedom Church) and involve clergy in leading / joining us for Collective Worship and providing coherence with worship in church.

We aim to visit Holy Innocents Church at least once per year as part of the Christian calendar and to offer the occasional opportunity for all children to experience worship in the wider church e.g. at the cathedral or on a Sunday morning.

1.4 Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. In all our schools 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.

We recognise that some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, some worship regularly at churches of other Christian denominations, while others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to provide a setting in which no-one's integrity is compromised, where everyone finds something positive for themselves, and there is no pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

1.5 Rights and Responsibilities

As established by the 1944 Act and reinforced in this policy, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, it is hoped that no one will feel the need to exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

1.6 Aims and Purpose

In relation to the issues of withdrawal, it is helpful for parents to be aware of the aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs

- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes

Within our provision of Christian Worship, we try to meet these aims for all children.

1.7 Planning

Planning for Collective Worship must be led by the headteacher, but may be delegated to an appropriate member of staff. Members of the Local Governing Body should also be involved in the 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. At Great Barton CE Academy, 'Roots and Fruits' are used as the basis of these plans. We share home-school values with our families to explore at home which reflect the current collective worship value.

The headteacher ensures that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

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.

1.8 Organisation

The act of Collective Worship is always held daily, which may involve the whole school or smaller class or key stage groups meeting together.

In a typical week at Great Barton CE Academy, Collective Worship is arranged for the whole school in the hall as follows:

Monday – Staff Led Collective Worship.

Tuesday – “Open the Book” Collective Worship.

Wednesday – Church Led Collective Worship.

Thursday – Sing Praise Collective Worship.

Friday – “Greatness Worship” (a celebration of God’s greatness and our school achievements of greatness).

Typically, the whole school meet in the school hall. The “reflection table” is positioned at the front, where the candle is lit during Collective Worship. The “reflection table” is positioned under the Collective Worship display during the rest of the day; on which are objects, images and words to help children reflect upon the half termly value. The CWL Team (Collective Worship Leadership) help to lead Collective Worship throughout the week.

Classes take turns each half term to lead Worship that reflects the current value.

Aspects of Collective Worship are discussed regularly in staff meetings and by the school council.

1.9 Resources

The school has a small budget for Collective Worship, which is distinct from the budget for Religious Education.

Good assembly books, access to websites and child-friendly Bibles are available. Good quality music e.g. through a growing collection of CDs, and access to a live musician is important. Mrs Pennistone (our music lead) alongside visiting members of the church community play the piano regularly and children are encouraged to play their own instruments in Collective Worship.

2.0 Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

At Great Barton CE Primary Academy, we recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide a multitude of opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Contributions to SMSC made by acts of worship may be inspected by Ofsted.

2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation / SIAMS Inspection

We use simple ways of monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship. Advice is given by the Diocese on this area.

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 are used annually to help monitor this impact.

Staff have opportunity to discuss the requirements of the SIAMS inspection and use its criteria as one way of moving CW forward in the school.

The headteacher, CW co-ordinator, pupils and the LGB should routinely monitor acts of Collective Worship. An observation form is available from the Diocese.

2.2 Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs as appropriate e.g. taking account of different learning styles and using multi-sensory approaches.

2.3 Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.