



Great Barton CE Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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

Review Frequency	Every year	Approval Level Required	Full GB
Approved By:	Full GB	Approval Date:	
Signed:		Print Name:	Dan Dolby Chair of Governors

1. Our Vision for Collective Worship

At Great Barton CE Primary Academy, our collective worship grows from our Christian vision rooted in Psalm 126:3. We believe that God is active in our community, and that worship is a time to pause, gather, reflect, and respond to God's goodness. Our G.R.E.A.T. values:

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shape the way we worship together and help us understand what it means to flourish as individuals and as a community.

Collective Worship is not simply a statutory duty; it is a daily opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter the presence, peace, and joy of God. Through story, prayer, silence, music, creativity, and reflection, we explore what it means to live well together, to care for God's creation, and to grow in wisdom, hope, dignity, and community.

We recognise that our school community includes people of different faiths and none. Collective Worship is offered as an inclusive, invitational space where all can reflect, wonder, and grow without pressure to participate in ways that compromise personal integrity.

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.

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- 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 Collective Worship are secured.**

3. Anglican Faith and Practice

Our worship reflects the faith, heritage, and practice of the Church of England. We ensure that worship is:

- **Biblical** – using scripture as a source of inspiration, teaching, and reflection.
- **Liturgical** – drawing on Anglican greetings, prayers, and patterns.
- **Seasonal** – following the rhythm of the Church year and major festivals.
- **Symbolic** – using Christian symbols, colour, and space to deepen reflection.
- **Eucharistic-aware** – introducing children to the central act of Anglican worship.
- **Ecumenical** – welcoming leaders from Holy Innocents' Church and the Freedom Church.
- **Diverse** – offering varied styles of worship including silence, meditation, music, drama, and praise.

We maintain strong links with **Holy Innocents' Church**, whose clergy regularly lead worship and support our spiritual life. We visit the church at least once a year and provide opportunities for children to experience worship in the wider church community.

4. Connections with Other 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.

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.

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6. Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship

Our worship aims to:

- provide opportunities to worship God
- explore Christian teaching and values
- nurture spirituality, stillness, awe, and wonder
- encourage reflection on moral and ethical issues
- deepen understanding of Christian belief and practice
- build community and shared identity
- inspire courageous advocacy and care for creation
- reinforce our G.R.E.A.T. values and Christian vision

Worship also supports our sustainability drivers — Consumption & Waste, Energy, Biodiversity, Transport, Water, Food — helping children understand their role as stewards of God’s creation.

7. Planning Collective Worship

Worship is planned around:

- the Anglican liturgical year
- half-termly Christian values (using *Roots and Fruits*)
- our G.R.E.A.T. values
- our sustainability themes
- opportunities for courageous advocacy
- key events in the school and community calendar

We follow the pattern Gather – Engage – Respond – Send, ensuring worship is structured, reflective, and meaningful.

8. Organisation of Collective Worship

A typical weekly pattern:

- **Monday** – Staff-led worship
- **Tuesday** – Open the Book or sustainability worship
- **Wednesday** – Church-led worship
- **Thursday** – Sing Praise
- **Friday** – Greatness Worship (celebration of God’s greatness and our achievements)

The reflection table, candle, and worship display support a calm, sacred atmosphere.

We usually worship together as a whole school, however worship may take place as a whole school, in key stages, or in classes.

9. Pupil Leadership in Collective Worship

Pupil leadership is a significant strength of worship at Great Barton. Our Collective Worship Leadership Team (CWL Team):

- meets regularly with Mrs Ratley

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- helps to plan and lead worship
- runs and judges our half-termly values competitions
- gives up their own lunchtimes to support worship
- helps prepare the worship space and reflection table
- supports younger pupils in understanding worship themes

In addition:

- Year 6 pupils lead Greatness Worship every Friday, celebrating achievements and linking them to our Christian vision.
- Once a half term classes lead collective worship and share what they have learnt or thought about most linked to the Christian value for that half term.
- During Open the Book worship, children eagerly volunteer to act, read, and support the storytelling.
- A group of pupils provide technical support, managing music, slides, lighting, and sound.

Pupil leadership ensures worship is shaped *with* children, not simply *for* them, and reflects their voice, creativity, and spiritual insight.

10. 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. 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.

11. Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Worship nurtures spirituality through:

- silence and stillness
- reflection
- awe and wonder
- connection with nature
- creativity, imagination, and story
- opportunities to explore big questions

It also supports moral development, social responsibility, cultural understanding, and courageous advocacy.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate worship by gathering:

- pupil voice (including CWL Team feedback)
- staff reflections
- governor monitoring
- visitor feedback

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- parent comments
- evidence of impact on behaviour, relationships, and values

We ask: “How is collective worship helping our community to flourish?”

Findings inform future planning and development.

13. 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.

14. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, Collective Worship Lead, and Local Governing Body.