



Let all that you do be done in love.

1Corinthians 16:14

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Date: February 2015

Reviewed: June 2022

Next Review: June 2025

At Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School the daily act of collective worship is an important part of school life and gives us an opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate and affirm the values that underpin everything we do in school. Through this and the strong ethos of our school we seek to promote our vision:

Learning

Offering an ambitious educational experience, developing a lifelong love of learning for all.

Loving

Fostering a spirit of self-worth, compassion and respect across our community.

Together, empowering resilient, responsible global citizens.

Living

Creating leaders who are inspired to serve, enabling us to live life in all its fullness.

Let all that you do be done in love. 1Co 16:14

Core Values

Our values determine the sort of person we are or become. At our school, we aim to be the sort of people that God would want us to be and to treat others in the way we would want them to treat us.

Whilst our school seeks to reflect many Christian values, the following eight have been chosen as our 'Core Values'. We believe that an understanding of these values, and integration of them into curriculum and school life, will help to equip our children as they forge relationships within our school community, the local community and within society as a whole. Our core values are:

- **Friendship**
- **Respect**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Love**
- **Compassion**
- **Fairness**
- **Resilience**
- **Honesty**

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement in the 1988 Education Act which states that Church schools must ensure that every child in the school has the opportunity to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parent wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading collective worship and taking part in the act of worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School that worship should:

- Reflect the vision of the school;
- Underpin the core values and ethos of the school;
- Be an opportunity for all present to share experiences and reflect on human existence;
- Help all present to explore and evaluate their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework;
- Offer opportunities to worship God;
- Offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development that is characterised by feelings such as awe and wonder, being up-lifted, appreciation, respect and reverence;
- Offer opportunities to develop a sense of community within the school and locality and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- Celebrate special occasions in the Church year and the life of the community;

- Nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting positive attitudes to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- Offer opportunities to learn from, explore, understand and empathise with the beliefs and cultures of others;
- Be clearly planned;
- Be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils;
- Be regularly monitored and evaluated.

Organisation

The organisation of daily acts of collective worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Assembly	9.00am
Tuesday	Hymn Practice – whole school	9.00am
Wednesday	Class worship – KS2 Picture news and Values – KS1	9.00am
Thursday	Class worship KS1 Picture news and Values – KS2	9.00am
Friday	Celebration Assembly	9.00am

Classroom assemblies may take place when the hall is unavailable.

Themes for collective worship are planned termly and reflect our value focus for the term linked to Picture News, the Church calendar, curricular links, particularly the beliefs and cultures reflecting RE units studied as part of the curriculum requirements and current events. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to the theme as outlined in the timetable. This pattern is flexible and on occasion it is recognised that worship will need to respond to local or national events.

Worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by music which may be linked to an on-screen presentation. Pupils should enter calmly, quietly and orderly, reflecting the nature of the occasion and adults act as role models in this respect. The worship table is set up by pupils with a cloth, a Bible, a cross and a candle and candle lighter. The assembly leader uses stories, including those from the bible, and other strategies to illustrate the key learning aim of the assembly. The candle is lit to signal the beginning of reflection and prayers time and pupils are invited to join in. The candle is blown out when the prayers are finished. A hymn or song is usually sung. The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

The organisation of collective worship provides a rich variety of experiences and forms of expression such as art, drama, music, story and dance. It also supports and offers opportunities to develop speaking and listening, presentation and performance skills.

The children are regularly involved in the worship and lead class assemblies. The School Worship Team, various Ambassadors and classes lead Worship across the year.

Members of staff, church clergy and other visitors are invited to lead and share acts of worship. Parents and families, governors, students and visitors to school are welcome to join in our collective worship when possible.

Advice from the revised Agreed RE Syllabus is followed and support from the Diocesan staff is welcomed.

Displays are used to support learning and understanding from collective worship. The Value display board is updated termly to reflect the current focus value. The Assembly board is updated regularly, as appropriate to remind pupils of key messages.

Planning and Record Keeping

All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and the School Council regularly obtains the views of their classmates which are shared and discussed.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection including hymn practice. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, our School Prayer and prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet when the candle is lit signalling a time of reflection and prayer.

At the beginning of lunchtime, Grace is said before the children get ready for lunch. Immediately after lunch, a short time of reflection enables the children to ready themselves for the afternoon's learning and may include listening to music and looking at pictures and photographs. Teachers will say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

The children's prayers are also taken and read in church when the school holds a service there.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, visits will be arranged to provide first-hand experiences and to help children gain a greater understanding of the variety places of worship. Visitors from different faiths are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate not evangelise. St Sebastian's Church and St Wulfrum's Church are frequently used resources, with children, staff and parents attending and contributing towards Harvest, Christingle, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' services.

Monitoring and Review

Foundation Governors have a role monitoring collective worship in school. Senior leaders and the Bishop's Visitor monitor classroom assemblies and other forms of classroom worship.

The Governing Body will review this policy statement every three years and update, modify or amend it as it considers necessary to ensure the policy meets the needs of Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School.

Class Led Worship

The following are key features of a class worship:

- The theme of the worship is taken from the termly Collective Worship plan.
- Pupils are well prepared beforehand and are ready seated at the front before other classes begin to enter the hall.
- As classes and guests enter, there is music linked to the theme with an image on the projection screen to reflect on. This might include video but not necessarily. When all classes are seated, parents etc are invited to join.
- The children present stories, poems and drama etc to illustrate the key focus for the assembly. They use a microphone if necessary so that they are audible for all members of the audience. They are supported by images and words projected on screen.
- There is a quiet, calm reflection point with key messages for everyone to consider. The candle is lit to indicate it is time to worship. Reflection is completed with a prayer related to the content and written by pupils.
- Include a song or hymn with words projected on screen so that everyone can join in.

In-Class Worship – Picture News

The following are key features of the assemblies led by teachers in the classroom:

- The theme of the assembly is an opportunity to address a social or emotional aspect that has been a class concern or an assembly theme during the week (e.g. friends falling out).
- Explore, through a story perhaps, appropriate behaviours and how problems can be solved. There is a substantial number of resources in the staffroom and please use bible stories when relevant or appropriate.
- Assemblies should be of a spiritual and Christian nature and children should be given time to reflect on the content. You could light a candle to indicate it is time to reflect.
- A song or hymn could be incorporated into the assembly. These can be accessible on the school network.
- The end of each in-class assembly should finish with a prayer related to the content or the school prayer. Key Stage 2 could say the Lord's Prayer.