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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Gillamoor Church of England School</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain.'</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mark 4:26</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Collective Worship Policy</p> | <p>Date for Review</p> <p>December 2022</p> |
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Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values to support us to work as a Christian community to inspire and nurture a love of learning and to develop the full potential of each individual; adult and children alike. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship at Gillamoor School is planned;

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer and Reflection Stillness.
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools' Trust Deed and foundation.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

Parent contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Gillamoor Primary is an inclusive school where all pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community are helped to flourish through the school's values; honesty, loving and caring, respect. At no time is anyone discriminated against for any reason (e.g. race, gender, religious beliefs, ability, SEND etc.).

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle, asking children to reflect quietly and saying a prayer.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering', 'engaging', 'responding', 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Church Council and Ethos Group. Pupils are actively encouraged and supported to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship.

Rev Mark Brosnan and Sarah Paxton, as school governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the Ethos Group at the school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning, including resources from the Diocese of York, 'Lift the Lid' and 'Roots and Fruits'

All pupils take part in daily Collective Worship, generally as a whole school but occasionally in classes. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the Headteacher and RE Subject Leader.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held 5 times a week. These are taken by the class teachers, headteacher, guest visitors (e.g. Rev Mark) or by the Church Council pupils, in a rota.

Visitors have included our local vicar, Rev Mark Brosnan, Rev Bridget, Rev Ken Gowland (Methodist), Father Kentigern (Catholic), Judy Duncan (Quaker), a representative from the Humanists of North Yorkshire.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

Certain named individuals Mrs Andrea Hayes (headteacher), Mrs Claire Teasdale, (Rec/KS1 teacher), Mrs James (KS2 teacher), Miss Pope (KS2 teacher), Rev. Mark Brosnan (Vicar) and the Church Council are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are regularly given the opportunity of being involved in this programme.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously and reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice. Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our pupil Church Council and full governing body meetings and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Policy agreed by Board of Governors December 2021

Andrea Hayes
Headteacher