

Gillamoor CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Ratified by Governors:

Review Date:

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values – Through high-quality education and rich, inspiring experiences, we equip all pupils to become compassionate, responsible global citizens – ready to be the **salt of the earth and the light of the world**, making a positive difference wherever they go. Our vision is rooted theologically in the words of Jesus found in Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.” Our values that help us to achieve our vision are: love, courage, forgiveness and service.

Collective worship 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 CE Primary 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 and outside of the school
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school’s core Christian values and provide a 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 and National/International awareness days

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 CE 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.

The School Foundation Governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the Ethos Group at the school.

We use 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. 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. local clergy or community figures) or by the Church Council pupils, in a rota.

Acts of worship generally follow the themes that are linked to the school's vision and values as well as including 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.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. 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 as part of the schools' monitoring and review procedures. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously and reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

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

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).