



**Collective Worship Policy**

Date created: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Date ratified: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Signed:



Chair of Governors

Signed:



Headteacher

Date reviewed:

Name of reviewer:

## *Aims*

Collective worship at St. Giles' CE Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs
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- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

## *Definition of collective worship*

For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

To "take part" in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

## *Organisation and planning*

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.

The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily from in the school hall.

Each act of worship held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing body.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Guest Speakers Policy during their visit.

#### Weekly collective worship programme

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the headteacher or deputy headteacher.
Tuesday	Two hymn practices are delivered to EYFS/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 by the music team, assisted by one other member of staff on a rota basis. Prayer and reflection time is included at the end of the hymn practice.
Wednesday	Based on a two week cycle, one week the assemblies are delivered by class teachers on a rota basis to EYFS/key stage 1 and key stage 2 separately. The themes for these assemblies are usually the same, though content will be differentiated appropriate to pupils' ages. On week two the whole-school will take part in worship led by the 'Open the Book' team from our local URC church.
Thursday	Based on a two week cycle, one week a whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Rector/Curate from St. Giles' Church. On week 2 the headteacher or deputy headteacher will lead worship based on the previous days 'Open the Book' worship.
Friday	A whole-school celebration worship is delivered by the headteacher or deputy headteacher.

## *Implementation*

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

## *Right to withdraw*

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.

The practical implications of withdrawal.

Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.

Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

### *Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities*

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for our Pastoral Care team/Specific named Teaching Assistants to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

### *Monitoring and review*

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is May 2018.

