

	Gislingham CE Primary School <i>‘Belong, Believe, Together Achieve’</i>	Policy Document Agreed: Sept 2023 Review: 4 years Date: Sept 2027
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At the heart of our vision is the belief that the spiritual, social, mental and physical development of every child is as important as academic achievement. We strive to nurture children to believe in themselves and honour our Christian values, ensuring they have the capacity to thrive and flourish throughout their lives.

Collective Worship Policy

Aims

As a Church of England School, we hold to a vision that worship is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian ethos where staff and children have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves.

In our school, Collective Worship enables pupils and staff to gather together for prayer, reflection, singing, celebrating and sharing feelings.

Worship enables participants to develop an understanding of the Christian belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We recognise that not all staff or children have a Christian faith. We welcome everyone to Collective Worship and offer it as a shared space for reflection and spiritual growth where our communities grow together in love and respect.

Purpose

Within our provision of Collective Worship we try to meet the following aims for all children:

- Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- Enable children to consider social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforces positive attitudes

Legal Requirements

1. 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.
2. The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
3. 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.

4. Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
5. The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
6. Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Foundation Committee who report to the School Governance Committee (SGC) in consultation with the Headteacher.
7. The Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

Anglian Faith and Practice

In addition to the above, we provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England as a part of the heritage of our school. We use the following indicators:

- BIBLICAL - the bible is used as a sourcebook for inspiration and learning and makes pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer and other verses of scripture.
- LITURGICAL - aspects of Anglican liturgy, such as greetings, are used to create a framework for worship; pupils are also introduced to a variety of well known prayers, many of which express central beliefs of Christians throughout the ages.
- EUCHARISTIC - we introduce children to the central act of Anglican worship in our RE lessons.
- SEASONAL - we observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals
- SYMBOLIC - we use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection
- ECUMENICAL - we work with other local Christian denominations (aspirational)
- DIVERSE - we provide opportunities to discover the variety of worship in Anglican churches e.g. Kagera.

Our Worship Councillors have responsibility for setting up the worship space.

We have good links with the local parish church, involving clergy in leading and joining us for Collective Worship and providing coherence with worship in church.

We visit the parish church as part of the Christian calendar (Harvest, Christmas and Easter) and to offer the occasional opportunity for all children to experience worship in the wider church e.g. at the cathedral or in a church service.

Connections with other Christian denominations and faiths

The Anglican Communion sees itself as part of a global church and promotes ecumenism. In our school, we seek 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.

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.

We will seek advice from the Diocesan Schools' Adviser with regard to legal requirements and the management of withdrawal.

Planning

Planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher, but may be delegated to an appropriate member of staff. Members of the Foundation Committee may also be involved in the planning.

Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year, celebrating festivals and saints' days as appropriate. Each half-term explores a Christian value in a variety of ways, through story, song, prayer and reflection. Picture news and Open the Book are sometimes used as the basis of these plans.

The Collective Worship Lead must ensure that leaders and visiting speakers receive copies of the plans. Individuals and groups are responsible for using the plans as a basis for developing their own short term plans for individual acts of worship.

Collective worship sessions are taken from the anglican framework, which has the pattern of **welcome, learning and reflecting, responding, and sending**.

Organisation

The act of worship is organised across the week differently but an act of Collective Worship is always held daily which may involve the whole school or classes. Whole school: Friday; Key Stage: Monday - Thursday

Where collective worship forms part of an assembly e.g. an awards assembly, we will ensure there is a clear distinction between the two elements of gathering.

Aspects of Collective worship are discussed regularly in a staff meeting and by the Worship Council.

Resources

Collective Worship is adequately resourced. Good assembly books, access to websites and child-friendly Bibles are available, including good quality music e.g. through a growing collection of CDs and on-line resources.

Contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

Our school recognises that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide opportunities in this area. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher, Worship Councillors and the Foundation Governors routinely monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship.

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.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Foundation Governors and shared with the School Governance Committee.