



Great Missenden Church of England

Combined School

Collective Worship Policy

Psalm 100 Verse 2:

“Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with joyful songs.”

As a Church of England School our collective worship is founded on Christian values and beliefs. At the same time, we reflect the diverse, multi-ethnic nature of society and aim to include children of different faiths and no faith in our collective worship.

In offering an invitation to our children, from all backgrounds, to participate in a Christian community, we endeavour to provide a real experience of God’s love for all humanity. Children not only learn about religion but they experience it as a living tradition. Collective worship plays a major part in fulfilling this.

Aims:

- That collective worship supports and strengthens our shared values and the ethos of the whole school
- That children grow in spiritual awareness and understand the importance of quiet reflection and prayer
- That faith is acknowledged and included in the taught curriculum
- That we demonstrate our commitment to ecumenism by welcoming visiting speakers and local clergy from different faith communities

Values:

TRUTH, LOVE, FAITH, COURAGE, RESPECT, COMMUNITY

The core values of the school are reviewed and discussed at the start of each school year. These discussions take place with all staff, governors and children through INSET days, staff meetings, governor meetings, assemblies and in class and school councils.

Our six core values are displayed in the assembly hall and are demonstrated throughout the life of the school:

- In our talks with children on the playground and in class
- As themes and focus topics in our Creative Curriculum

- In teacher-led and pupil-led assemblies
- Through our charity work and our contribution to the local and global community

THE THREE RS: RESPECT, RELIABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY

Pupils and staff are expected to attend acts of worship but **respect** is always shown for each individual's faith. We recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We would, however, encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher before withdrawing their children.

Staff, through collective worship, will encourage pupils to become **reliable** and **responsible** citizens who are true to their own beliefs whilst being understanding of other people's ideas and views.

Planning

In planning collective worship it is necessary to take into account the range of ages in the school, from 4 – 11 years. Worship must be carefully planned to ensure that it is...

- Engaging
- Accessible
- Appealing to all ages
- If possible, using visual aids or props to strengthen the message
- Involving children in both creation and delivery

Planning will be organised within the broad traditions of Christianity which underpin whole school worship and smaller group worship. The programme of collective worship will be drawn up by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, who ensures all staff who are leading assemblies know their dates and themes at the start of each term.

Planning will include themes of worship for the year based on the PSHE programmes of study and other collective worship programmes. The collective worship programme will be flexible in order to respond to current events, teachers' enthusiasms, priorities within the school community and the stimuli of the creative curriculum.

Children's Involvement in Worship

Children are not just passive recipients in worship. They are actively involved in devising acts of worship, and in the delivery of assemblies.

Children are given opportunities to plan and prepare whole assemblies or parts of an assembly. They are consulted on the content of worship, through Class and School Councils. Children are encouraged to write prayers, stories or plays to be included in our worship.

Prayer

When we pray or reflect quietly, the hall lights are switched off and a candle is lit. Children told us, through School Council, that they like the candle and it helps them to pray.

Not just in the hall!

Collective Worship may happen anywhere in the school. For example:

- Grace before lunch
- A class saying thank you together at the end of a good day, or for some good news
- Class or year group assemblies
- Time for reflection, at any time of day

There is an established Christian presence in every classroom, for example a cross or a prayer wall, as a focus for the children.

On Fridays, the library is open for two hours over lunch time for children to come and have quiet reflection time. The prayers written during this time are offered up in Monday's assembly.

Links with the Church of St Peter and St Paul

The school maintains strong links with the Church of St Peter and St Paul. As well as assemblies led by the clergy in school, the children also visit the Church for services during the year. There are at least three special services – Harvest, Christmas and Easter, which are devised and led by the children and to which parents are invited. These are a joyous shared celebration, often including drama, dance, song and music.

Children visit the Church as part of the curriculum, to look at the building and learn about its history. They are also taught how to behave respectfully in church.

Weekly Programme of Worship

Monday	Whole School worship led by Canon Revd Rosie Harper or Revd Carolyn Bailey
Tuesday	Singing Praise. The children learn songs and hymns which are then sung in daily assemblies or services at the end of term.
Wednesday	Senior Management Team lead an assembly, or there is a presentation from a visiting speaker. Class Assemblies offer the class an opportunity to present their Topic as a small production, with songs, poems, drama and interactive games.
Thursday	Smaller group assemblies – either in Year Groups or Key Stages – led by children and teachers.
Friday	Brilliant Book Assembly. Teachers choose a child from their class to be entered into the Brilliant Book for showing exceptional qualities – hard work, consideration for others etc. The names are read out and each child receives a Gold Award.

Recording

Themes for the weekly assemblies and content are recorded on the staffroom notice board.

Records of assemblies are kept by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator, in the form of photographs, scripts, children's responses or feedback.

Evaluation

The impact of Collective Worship is constantly evaluated, as it has an immediate effect on the children, and staff can see whether or not it has been positive.

Have the children engaged with the worship?

Have they responded with interest?

Has it made them think?

Has it made a difference?

Have they had a chance to reflect quietly?

Has it been a valuable part of their day?

Collective Worship is evaluated by Class and School Council meetings at least once a year. Children are asked their views on Collective Worship through a Class Council discussion and a questionnaire. Their responses are shared with the school and the staff, and inform our planning for Collective Worship.

Policy written by Harry Sperring, Collective Worship Coordinator

Reviewed September 2016